

# INTRODUCTION

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Within the planning hierarchy of the National Park Service (NPS), a park's General Management Plan (GMP) guides park management decisions over a 20-year period. A new GMP for Cape Hatteras National Seashore is scheduled for 2010 or 2011. A park's Long-Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP) is one of a handful of park strategic plans under the GMP. The LRIP is the keystone of the Comprehensive Interpretive Planning (CIP) process. Once approved, the park staff will continue the CIP process by implementing the LRIP through Annual Implementation Plans (AIPs). Throughout the CIP process, the park will also compile and maintain the park's Interpretive Database (ID).

This LRIP will guide the interpretive staff at Cape Hatteras National Seashore over the next five to seven years in their efforts to orient visitors to the Seashore's recreational opportunities and interpret its natural history and human history stories. This LRIP was created in 2006 with input from many of the park's partners. It describes visitor experience goals and recommends ways to achieve those goals through interpretive media and personal services. Achievement of the LRIP's recommendations depends on funding as well as cooperation from the park's partners. This LRIP will help guide park management in reaching their "ideal future vision" for the interpretive services and media for park visitors. Managers will need to adapt this ideal future vision based on current and projected fiscal and political realities.

*Please note that throughout this LRIP, Cape Hatteras National Seashore may be referred to as Cape Hatteras NS, the Seashore, or the park.*

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Cape Hatteras National Seashore, located on the Outer Banks of eastern North Carolina, is administered by the National Park Service Outer Banks Group. The Group also includes Fort Raleigh National Historic Site and Wright Brothers National Memorial. This Long-Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP) was written specifically for Cape Hatteras NS.

Authorized by Congress in 1937 as our nation's first national seashore, Cape Hatteras NS contains 30,320 acres stretching along 74 miles of three barrier islands — Bodie Island, Hatteras Island, and Ocracoke Island.

This LRIP provides a vision for the future of interpretation at the Seashore. The LRIP was created through a goal-driven process that describes desired visitor experiences and recommends appropriate means to achieve them while protecting and preserving the park's natural and cultural resources. The LRIP's first section confirms the foundations of the park: its purpose, significance, interpretive themes, visitor profiles, visitor experience goals, issues and influences, and existing conditions. The LRIP's second section recommends actions to be taken over the next five to seven years to improve the park's personal services program and interpretive media, and provides an achievable implementation strategy.

The following short sections and bulleted phrases on these two pages summarize this LRIP's Future Interpretive Program:

## Personal Services

- Increase communication between the Seashore and its partners
- Offer a balanced interpretive program schedule for park visitors
- Coordinate education programs for schools and other groups
- Collaborate in recruiting and training seasonal employees and volunteers for the Seashore and its partners

## Visitor Facilities

- Open the Hatteras U.S. Weather Bureau Station as a visitor information facility
- Restore the Little Kinnakeet Life Saving Station and open part of it as a visitor information facility
- Upgrade the Whalebone Junction visitor information area with new visitor facilities

## **Non-Personal Services (Interpretive Media)**

### **Audiovisual Programs**

- Edit the “Move of the Century” audiovisual program into different lengths for use at other park venues
- Produce a new movie on the “Weather of the Outer Banks” Exhibits
- Develop a master plan for all indoor exhibits at the Seashore that will include an overall approach to developing all the interpretive themes
- Redesign and replace exhibits at Cape Hatteras Lighthouse complex
- Develop a temporary exhibit for the Ocracoke Keepers Quarters
- Develop exhibits for the Bodie Island Visitor Center and Lighthouse
- Develop exhibits for the 1901 U.S. Weather Bureau Station in Hatteras Village
- Develop exhibits for the Little Kinnakeet Life Saving Station
- Develop exhibits for the Ocracoke Island Visitor Center

### **Furnishings**

- Furnish the Little Kinnakeet Life Saving Station

### **Publications**

- Write, design, and produce a handbook that is smaller in scope than a traditional NPS handbook through a Harpers Ferry Center (HFC)-recommended contractor

## **Wayside Exhibits**

- Prepare a park-wide Wayside Exhibit Proposal to guide wayside development of a complete, high-quality, unified system of waysides
- Plan, design, fabricate, and install a series of 3-sided, roofed kiosks
- Plan, design, fabricate, and install interpretive, low profile waysides to interpret the park’s cultural landmarks and natural landscape features
- Plan, design, fabricate, and install upright trailhead wayside exhibits and trailside interpretive wayside exhibits

Achievement of the above-listed recommendations (and others listed in detail within this LRIP’s second section) is based on the receipt of funding and the park’s coordination with willing partners.

# FOUNDATION FOR PLANNING

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## LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

In 1934 the National Park Service (NPS) launched a preliminary survey study of some twenty areas along the Atlantic, Gulf, Pacific, and Great Lakes shores in an effort to preserve the remaining unspoiled coastlines for public recreation areas. Little had been done to reserve shore areas for public use, and the rush for seashore summer home sites and the land and real estate booms of the prosperous 1920s had taken its toll. The NPS felt that it was appropriate to include seashores and lakeshores in the overall land-use conservation and recreational planning programs made possible through the New Deal relief efforts.

Employing the technical expertise of the Coast Guard and other government agencies, the NPS continued its seashore and lakeshore studies in 1936 and 1937. The study resulted in the recommendation that twelve major stretches of unspoiled Atlantic and Gulf Coast shoreline, comprising some 437 miles of beach, be preserved as national seashores in the national park system.

One of the shorelines, Cape Hatteras in North Carolina, attracted considerable attention, and local Representative Lindsay Warren succeeded in getting legislation through Congress on August 17, 1937, authorizing the establishment of our nation's first national seashore.

A copy of this Act of Congress is in this document in Appendix B.

## PURPOSE

Purpose statements describe why an area was set aside as a unit of the national park system, and the purpose of the area today.

Congressional testimony, enabling legislation, and other events in the park's legislative and administrative history often provide the basis for purpose statements.

The Seashore's purpose statement as written in the park's 2005-2008 Strategic Plan, states; "*The purpose of Cape Hatteras National Seashore is to preserve and protect significant segments of barrier island coastline for the benefit and enjoyment of the people and to provide for recreational visitor use consistent with that purpose. Cultural resources reflecting and revealing the national maritime experience, cultural expressions and man's inherent relationships with the land are also protected and preserved.*"

Park managers who participated in a LRIP workshop at the Seashore in January 2005 drafted the revised purpose statements below (and the significance statements on the next page) in anticipation that these new statements would be a starting point for park's upcoming General Management Plan revision.

The purpose of the Seashore is to:

- Preserve and protect significant segments of dynamic barrier islands that are shaped by ongoing natural processes;
- Preserve, protect, and interpret the park's natural and cultural resources; and
- Provide for recreational use and enjoyment compatible with the preservation and protection of the park's resources.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Statements of significance clearly define the importance or distinctiveness of the park's resources.

Cape Hatteras National Seashore is significant because:

- The Seashore was authorized in 1937 and established in 1953 as our nation's first national seashore and preserves publicly accessible barrier islands where audiences should be able to experience unimpaired Seashore values such as clean ocean water and beaches, undeveloped island and water resources, natural sounds, solitude, seashore viewsheds, and night skies.
- The Seashore is part of a natural system with a geologic process unique to barrier islands-characterized by constant change both seasonally and daily, subtle and dramatic.
- The Seashore is characteristic of the ecological habitats normally associated with barrier island systems including beach, dunes, maritime forest, inlets, freshwater wetlands, salt marshes, and tidal flats.
- The Seashore is a permanent and temporary home to a great variety of terrestrial and aquatic life – including several threatened and endangered species, and other protected species – which depend on the fragile and special island habitats that results from the transition between the northern and southern habitat zones and the dynamic nature of these barrier islands.
- The Seashore, a Globally Important Bird Area, is a critical natural landform along the Atlantic Flyway serving as major resting and feeding grounds for migratory birds.
- The Seashore contains archeological and historical resources that provide clues to livelihood and activities of Native American life, self-sufficient and isolated island communities, waterfowl hunting camps, commercial fisheries, lighthouses, U.S. Life Saving Stations, U.S. Coast Guard Stations, shipwrecks, military structures and sites, a U.S. Weather Station, and sites associated with the Civilian Conservation Corps.
- The Seashore is an outdoor recreational resource offering outstanding opportunities for hiking, camping, boating, sailing, nature study, solitude and reflection, beach combing, fishing, hunting, shell-fishing, swimming, birding, biking, picnicking and many other leisure activities.
- The Seashore is an educational resource offering outstanding opportunities for visitors and educational groups to learn about stewardship, preservation, and the park's unique natural and cultural resources.



*Visitors sketching on the beach enjoy a recreational activity that is compatible with the park's primary purpose of preserving the park's resources.*

## INTERPRETIVE THEMES

### Tangible/Intangible Concepts

The purpose of interpretation is to make intellectual and emotional connections from the park resources to visitors' experiences so that visitors will understand, appreciate, and help preserve the park. At the park's LRIP Workshops in 2005, the participants developed the list (although this is not an all-inclusive list) of tangible resources and intangible meanings below and on the following pages as a starting point in developing the park's interpretive theme statements. NPS rangers, park partners, and media specialists should review this list and use the interpretive theme statements as a starting point when developing their interpretation of the park resources for visitors to help create meaningful connections.

#### Tangible (Resources) and Intangible (Meanings)

Airstrip: adventure, danger, bravery, leadership (Billy Mitchell)

Atlantic Ocean: inspiration, relaxation, danger, science

Bathhouses: comfort, privacy

Beach: vacations, fun, inspiration, geologic processes, recreation, habitat

Birds, turtles: beauty, survival, sustenance, joy, relaxation, protection, life cycle, controversy

Bodie Island Lighthouse: heritage, culture, nostalgia, family, protection

Bonner Bridge/future bridge: beauty, breathtaking, gorgeous, politics

British Cemetery: death, honor

Campgrounds: shelter, comfort

Coquina Beach & facilities: convenience, cleanliness

Duck blinds: surprise, sustenance, heritage

Dunes: beach, protection, beauty, ecology, change, geologic

Fish: fun, exciting, education, discovery, living beach, circle of life, protection

Fishing centers/piers: recreation, hospitality, economics

Fishing/hunting Camps: survival, tradition, culture

Flora and fauna: variety, survival, adaptation

Flotsam/jetsam: discovery, heritage, time, recycling, pollution

Fresnel lens: innovation

Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum: preservation

Hatteras U.S. Weather Bureau Station: innovation, warning, science

Historic CCC cabins: preservation, stewardship

Inlets: recreation, economics, commercial, fishing, procreation, danger, preservation, seashore dynamics, passageway

Insects: irritation, disease, necessary

Jetty: safety, change, manipulative



Keepers Quarters: community, legacy, assistance, history, family, heritage

Lighthouses: warning, hardship

Life Saving Stations: service, loyalty, duty, devotion, work, discipline, integrity, violence, pride, preservation

Light Stations: dedication, sacrifice, hope, aesthetics, memory, technological advances/changes, preservation

Marine Mammals: excitement, fun, loss, survival, protection, web of life, intelligence, biodiversity

Maritime Forests: adaptable, migrating

Nature trails: inspiration, exercise, discovery, different perspectives

Ocracoke ponies: history, community, heritage

Pamlico Sound: aquatic nursery

Pea Island NWR: cooperation

Pinelands: habitat, diversity, change

Pullouts/viewing stands: curiosity, discovery, enjoyment

Ramps: convenience, safety, protection, access

Ranger Station/Old CG Station: decay, stewardship

Reptiles & Amphibians: adaptable

Salt marsh: habitat, diversity, change

Shipwrecks: travel, courage, fear, terror, mystery, death, life, grief,

pain, hope, despair, loss, curiosity

Signs: communication, respect, environmental, first impression

Sound: solitude, beauty, recreation, culture, restlessness, vastness

Surfing: excitement, thrill, danger, recreation

Trees: shelter, resilient

Weather: dynamic process, science

Whalebone Junction Station: orientation, hospitality, assistance, comfort, communication,

As stated previously, this is not an all-inclusive list, and should be updated as necessary. NPS rangers/interpreters, park partners, and media specialists should use this list and the interpretive theme statements on the next pages as a starting point when developing personal services, education programs, and interpretive media.



*A park ranger interpreting a sea turtle nest on the beach helps visitors make intellectual and emotional connections to the park's resources.*

## Theme Statements

As visitors enjoy the Seashore's resources, it is the responsibility of staff and partners to facilitate a connection within visitors from the park's tangible resources to the intangible meanings inherent within them.

Visitors to the Seashore should have the opportunity to be exposed to the following themes — ideas that are central to the park's story — through the personal services program, the interpretive media, or both.

### **Barrier Island Processes**

The Seashore is part of a natural system, with geologic processes unique to/or associated with barrier islands, characterized by constant change, both seasonally and daily, subtle and dramatic.

#### **Sub-themes**

- Barrier islands are one of the most dynamic landforms on Earth.
- Although sea level rise, oceans currents and weather alter the Seashore gradually over long periods of time, some of the most dynamic changes occur suddenly during fierce storms.
- Barrier island migration, a natural process upon which the long-term continued existence of barrier islands depends, is mainly due to sea level rise and sand movement driven by wind and waves
- Inlets are the primary means by which sand is transported to the soundside of a migrating barrier island system. Inlets open and close in response to changing conditions and migrate along the barrier shoreline. Over time, many inlets have formed, changed, and closed along the Outer Banks, defining much of the geologic structure of these barrier islands.



*The beaches at Cape Hatteras National Seashore are part of the barrier island ecosystem - one of the most dynamic landforms in the world.*

- As waves strike the beach at an angle, a longshore current is formed which moves sand along the shore in the direction of the current. Through this process, spits can quickly form in areas that were previously open water.
- Wind and waves move sand grains along the beach to form dunes. The primary stabilizing element in the dune-building process is vegetation; otherwise, the sand continues to move.
- The minerals and seashell fragments found in beach sand reflect the sand's geological origin.
- Human attempts to stabilize these highly dynamic barrier islands will likely fail as the sea level continues to rise and intense storms impact the coast.

### **Habitat and Species**

The dynamic barrier island processes define the ever-changing and interdependent ecological communities of plants and animals within the Seashore.

#### **Sub-themes**

- Barrier islands contain a diversity of habitats, including beaches, primary dunes, secondary dunes, maritime forests, fresh water wetlands, salt marshes, and tidal flats.
- The Seashore's soundside and adjacent ocean waters provide habitat for aquatic species.
- The diversity of habitat on the Seashore supports a vast array of plant and animal life, including migratory and resident species, marine and terrestrial communities.
- The Seashore protects several threatened and endangered species — the piping plover, seabeach amaranth, and loggerhead, green, Kemp's ridley, and leatherback sea turtles, — as well as several species



of special concern as listed by the State of North Carolina.

- Seashore plants and animals have special adaptations that enable them to survive the extreme conditions of heat, drought, wind, salt spray, saltwater overwash, limited fresh water resources, weather events, and the dynamic nature of their environment.
- The Seashore provides significant and vital resting and feeding areas for hundreds of thousands of birds migrating along the Atlantic flyway. Migrating birds are found in the park virtually year-round; July through May.
- The Seashore's geographic location and proximity to the cold-water Labrador Current and warm-water Gulf Stream allow for favorable habitat conducive to hosting several northern and southern plant and animal species.

## **History and Heritage**

**In response to the forces of nature and the dynamic barrier island setting, the Seashore's archeological and historical resources reflect diverse human experiences through time.**

### **Sub-themes**

- Shipwrecks, both submerged and buried along the shorelines, and the artifacts from them are testaments to survival and loss of life and property associated with maritime commerce and wartime activities along the Seashore.
- Structures and artifacts of Light Stations, Life Saving Stations, Navy and Coast Guard Stations, Weather Stations, and Survey of the Coast. Markers in the Seashore represent the efforts of the United States to protect life and preserve property of maritime commerce from natural and wartime forces.
- The geographic features of Cape Hatteras, the Diamond Shoals, the Gulf Stream, and the Labrador Current are historic reference points for navigation, weather observations and events, war activity, technological experiments such as aerial bombing and voice radio, and nautical folklore. Historic inlet locations determined settlement, trade, and transportation patterns.
- Military activity occurred around Cape Hatteras and nearby islands and banks due to their strategic location. Shipwrecks and control of vessel activity along adjacent waters were primarily results of activities from the 16th through the 20th centuries.
- Historic habitation sites of American Indians, European settlers, African American watermen, and shipwreck survivors are located in the maritime woods and along the soundside of the islands. Living in isolation under a harsh maritime environment and the use of the traditions of barter, salving, and subsistence trade defined these historic cultures.
- Windmills, fish camps, hunt clubs, wharves, marinas, boatbuilding, and seafood facilities are examples of cultural resources that have existed in the Seashore and adjacent villages.
- Gravesites of sailors, lifesavers, mariners and, shipwreck victims within the Seashore represent the toll of war and nature.
- Civil War fort sites and associated artifacts in the Seashore represent the struggle between the Confederacy and Union to control North Carolina's commerce.
- Seashore oceanside dune construction and visitor use infrastructure are legacies from the Work Projects Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps.
- Ocracoke Island possesses a

unique heritage resulting from its continued remote setting. Ocracoke Village originated as a pilot town, and served as an early port village and primary point of entry to North Carolina. Island ponies are a remnant of 17th-through early 20th-century live-stock raising. Nearby Teach's Hole is the location of the battle between the pirate Blackbeard and his crew against Virginia soldiers and sailors.

- Unique customs, folklore, dialect, and the seafood industry are intrinsic to the cultural heritage of Outer Banks inhabitants and their link to the sea.

### **Recreation/Reflection**

The Seashore provides outstanding opportunities for relaxation, recreation, reflection, and memorable experiences for people across all generations and walks of life.



*Walking in the Seashore's surf and other recreational activities provide park visitors with relaxation and memorable experiences.*

#### **Sub-themes**

- Visitors to the Seashore recreate in a variety of ways including hiking, camping, boating, sailing, nature study, beach combing, fishing, hunting, shellfishing, swimming, birding, biking, windsurfing, kiteboarding, solitude and reflection, picnicking, as well as many other leisure activities.
- Recreational uses of the Seashore occur across and within heritage landmark sites, developed facilities, unique habitats, waterways, and other biophysical features.
- Recreation is an activity that renews one's health and spirits through enjoyment and relaxation.
- Recreation may be undertaken individually or with others. It may be planned or spontaneous. It may be passive or active, and may or

may not require a designated area.

- Recreation can include educational visits or experiences.
- Recreational experiences can prompt a desire to be a good steward of the park.
- Adjacent villages provide additional opportunities and services that may compliment and/or enhance recreational activities in the park.
- Dynamic environmental forces impact and change Seashore recreational opportunities.
- The colliding of the cold-water Labrador Current and the warm-water Gulf Stream off of Cape Hatteras helps to create unique recreational opportunities.
- Most of the Seashore's habitats are accessible to visitors by walking, biking, boating, and/or driving on a year-round basis. Certain park areas have periods of restricted access due to resource protection efforts, visitor safety concerns, and maintenance projects. Consideration is made for access for disabled visitors wherever possible.

### **Preservation and Stewardship**

Preservation and stewardship of the fragile cultural and natural resources within the Seashore is critical so that future generations can access, enjoy, value, and learn from these resources.

#### **Sub-themes**

- Preservation and stewardship are accomplished through wise management practices, dedicated park staff, cooperating partnerships, and park neighbors who instill appreciation, pride, and responsibility within today's visitors for the park's resources.
- The public is encouraged to support stewardship of the park by

becoming educated about the park's natural and cultural resources and informed on park issues; and by providing comment during park planning processes.

- On-going research and inventory & monitoring provide vital statistics about the Seashore's natural resources.
- Preservation and maintenance programs for the park's cultural resources are complimented by partner and public involvement.
- All people can be stewards and help make a positive impact on the Seashore by obeying park regulations.
- Local communities at the Seashore have a special place as stewards of the park and serve as a barometer of preservation and conservation achievement.

## **Weather**

The Seashore and all life found therein is greatly affected by the range, severity, and unpredictability of the weather on the Outer Banks.

### **Sub-themes**

- Weather on the Seashore includes, but is not limited to, high winds, extreme heat, cold, fog, humidity, thunderstorms, rain, lightning, snow, ice, waterspouts, hurricanes, tornadoes, and nor'easters.
- Major weather events such as hurricanes and nor'easters can cause great change and upheaval on the Seashore's dynamic barrier islands. Entire sections of the Seashore's barrier islands and life found there can be radically changed in a very brief period of time.
- Weather affects the natural systems in the park by creating, changing, or eliminating geographic and biological features as well as habitat, which in turn determines the various species and their survival on

the Seashore.

- People (residents and visitors) on the Seashore must be prepared for any eventuality and the unpredictability of the weather at all times.
- Weather and weather events have a direct impact on the culture, activities, and opportunities of people who live, work, visit, or own property on the Seashore.
- Mankind's response to weather (e.g. building construction, laws and policies, technology, employment opportunities, dune construction, evacuations, etc.) can alter the make-up of the Seashore and the lives of residents, property owners, and visitors.



*Major storms strike Cape Hatteras regularly and cause great changes in the Seashore's barrier island resources.*

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

In accordance with the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993, the Seashore drafted its third Strategic Plan in 2005, stating the park's management goals through 2008. Within that GPRA Strategic Plan, the following goals address recreation, interpretation, and visitor experiences.

**Mission Goal IIa:** Visitors safely enjoy and are satisfied with the availability, accessibility, diversity, and quality of park facilities, services, and appropriate recreational opportunities.

Long-term Goal: By September 30, 2008, 95% of park visitors are satisfied with appropriate park facilities, services, and recreational opportunities.

**Mission Goal IIb:** Park visitors and the general public understand and appreciate the preservation of parks and their resources for future generations.

Long-term Goal: By September 30, 2008, 87% of park visitors understand and appreciate the significance of Cape Hatteras NS.

**Mission Goal IVb:** The National Park Service increases its managerial resources through initiatives and support from other agencies, organizations, and individuals.

Long-term Goal: By September 30, 2008, attendance at Cape Hatteras NS facilitated programs will increase to 902,465 (10%).

## GPRA Goal Measurements

The outcomes (i.e., how well the park is achieving its visitor-related GPRA goals) of these efforts are measured each year at every unit of the national park system through survey forms that are distributed to visitors at each NPS unit. Visitors send their completed survey forms to the University of Idaho where the data is collected and compiled for each NPS unit. The survey results reflect visitor opinion about each park's facilities, services, and recreational opportunities, as well as measures visitor understanding and appreciation of each NPS unit's significance. For the results of the most recent GPRA visitor survey at the Seashore, see page 18 of this LRIP.

## VISITOR EXPERIENCE GOALS

### Park-wide Goals for All Visitors

Programs and facilities throughout the Seashore will provide visitors with information and interpretive opportunities. Before, during or after their visit, visitors, including those from local communities, should be able to enhance their experience by:

- Receiving adequate orientation opportunities and hospitality service within the Seashore's boundaries and the surrounding area to gain an understanding of Seashore opportunities, to receive safety and regulatory information, and to feel welcomed to the park.
- Using safe practices while at the Seashore to ensure safe experiences.
- Gaining an appreciation and understanding of the Seashore by learning about, interacting with, and developing personal meaning in the park's natural and cultural resources and heritage sites.
- Demonstrating stewardship by using park resources in a manner that promotes and enhances the natural ecosystem and preserves cultural resources.
- Understanding that the Seashore is a unit of the national park system and the importance of the NPS stewardship role in our society.
- Enjoying a variety of recreational activities that are compatible with the protection of park resources and use of the park by other visitors.
- Finding opportunities for reflection, solitude and personal discovery.
- Accessing the beaches, sounds, and programs given the full range of visitor abilities and disabilities.
- Understanding the Seashore's management decisions and policies for protecting and preserving the park's natural and cultural resources for present and future generations.
- Having the opportunity to purchase publications, maps, and other educational materials through Eastern National (EN), the Seashore's cooperating association.

### Education Program Goals

In addition to Park-wide Visitor Experience Goals, schools and other education groups should be able to enhance their knowledge and help preserve the Seashore's resources by:

- Understanding relationships and concepts of the Seashore's natural and cultural resources.
- Having access to age-appropriate, hands-on materials and techniques for off-site presentations, pre-trip exercises, and on-site experiences.
- Creating research and internships to expand education.
- Encouraging education activities to be fun, safe, and economical.
- Developing educational opportunities for local education groups, i.e. Dare and Hyde County Schools, College of the Albemarle, UNC Coastal Studies Institute, and The North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching.



*Visitor experience goals at the Seashore range from organizing special programs that draw large crowds to opportunities for individuals to find solitude.*



## **Goals Related to Virtual Visitors**

In addition to the Park-wide Visitor Experience Goals, “virtual visitors” (web-based users) should be able to enhance their knowledge of the Seashore by accessing a website that:

- Provides interpretive text as well as informational text.
- Provides a balance between text and visual components.
- Includes easy navigation and a uniform look.
- Includes a comprehensive site map to show users what is available.
- Links to local parks, partners, and other appropriate web sites.
- Incorporates student and teacher resources such as curriculum, activities, worksheets, and experiments.
- Includes a web-based Junior Seashore Ranger option.
- Includes a feature where visitors can ask questions and request park information.
- Is consistent, accurate, and up-to-date.

## VISITOR PROFILES

The following annual and monthly visitation figures for Cape Hatteras NS are based on computations by the National Park Service Public Use Statistics Office in Denver, which estimates visitation data based on counts at specific locations within the Seashore.

### Park-wide Visitation Figures

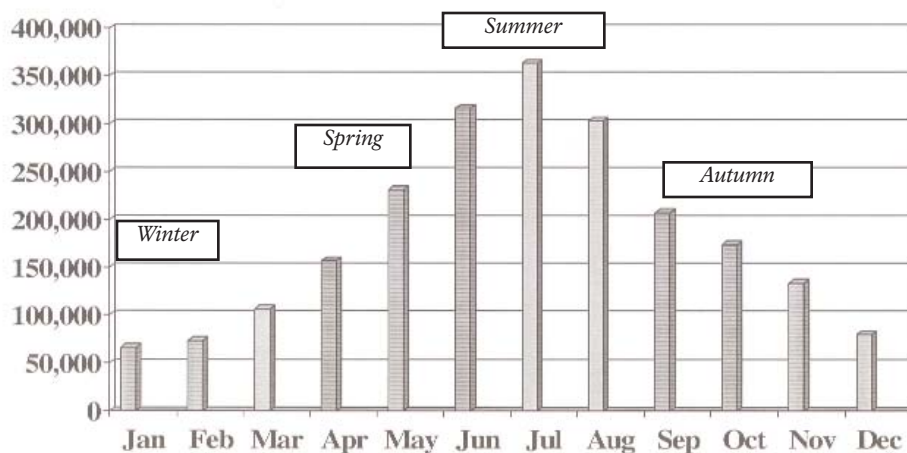
#### Annual Visitation, 1982 - 2005

1982: 1,698,543  
 1983: 1,685,628  
 1984: 1,396,076  
 1985: 1,224,687  
 1986: 1,535,913  
 1987: 1,629,277  
 1988: 1,929,713  
 1989: 2,097,991  
 1990: 2,072,715  
 1991: 2,098,930  
 1992: 2,047,103  
 1993: 2,259,889  
 1994: 2,383,684  
 1995: 2,384,388  
 1996: 2,355,580  
 1997: 2,515,057  
 1998: 2,737,640  
 1999: 2,634,587  
 2000: 2,647,383  
 2001: 2,592,889  
 2002: 2,923,894  
 2003: 2,660,535  
 2004: 2,321,618  
 2005: 2,376,947

#### Monthly Visitation, 2005

January 70,200  
 February 73,656  
 March 109,717  
 April 136,296  
 May 215,245  
 June 363,285  
 July 388,888  
 Aug. 322,934  
 September 284,518  
 October 147,152  
 November 130,680  
 December 131,460  
 Total visitors to Cape Hatteras NS in 2005 = 2,376,947

## Monthly/Seasonal Visitation 2005



## Visitor Center Visitation 2005

Month	Whalebone	Bodie Island	Hatteras Island	Ocracoke Island
January	0	1,772	3,661	529
February	0	2,787	3,118	609
March	4,742	6,924	17,733	2,798
April	5,724	11,042	31,181	3,964
May	7,489	16,731	42,021	8,758
June	7,299	26,653	66,171	14,782
July	11,200	29,500	68,987	15,590
August	9,200	23,400	67,844	13,590
September	5,288	14,790	29,247	5,447
October	4,996	13,097	32,329	5,140
November	4,666	5,000	16,092	2,560
December	3,049	2,841	6,779	913
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63,653</b>	<b>154,537</b>	<b>385,073</b>	<b>74,680</b>

## Analysis of Visitor Group Types

### Regional/National Vacationers

**Characteristics:** Park visitation consists of mainly vacationers from eastern states from the Carolinas up to New England, as well as many visitors from Ohio. Most come to the Outer Banks for a 1-week or 2-week vacation during summer. Highest summer visitation is typically on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

#### **Use of Cape Hatteras NS:**

Primarily sightseeing, visiting lighthouses, sunbathing, beachcombing, fishing, swimming, and camping.

**Issues:** Because many of these visitors see the Outer Banks simply as a vacation beach, it is a challenge to get them to appreciate the significance of the Seashore, and that it is a unit of the national park system. Orientation of these visitors is difficult as the park lacks north and south adequate and effective entrance orientation/information facilities.

### Local Recreational Users

**Characteristics:** People who live in villages within the Seashore and local residents of the Outer Banks area and coastal North Carolina.

#### **Use of Cape Hatteras NS:**

Primarily to access the beach.

**Issues:** NPS management of outdoor recreational vehicles and protected species can cause friction. Conflicts can occur between various user groups. There is not a clear understanding of park issues and management practices among local users. Visitors in this group rarely attend traditional interpretive programming.

### “Virtual” Visitors

**Characteristics:** Local, national, and international visitors who “visit” through computers in their homes or offices via the park’s website.

#### **Use of Cape Hatteras NS:**

Although these visitors have no direct impact on the park’s tangible resources, a great opportunity to develop stewardship and appreciation of the park’s resources exists through the web. These visitors do impact park staff in the time required to create, update, and maintain the park’s website.

**Issues:** The numbers of these “virtual” visitors are growing each year; as these numbers grow the importance the park’s website increases.

### Education Groups

**Characteristics:** Organized school groups or other education groups, primarily during the autumn and spring months.

#### **Use of Cape Hatteras NS:**

These groups have little impact on park resources other than use of facilities. However, they do impact park staff in time required to prepare and present educational programs.

**Issues:** NPS staff to present educational programs needs to increase and curriculum-based programs developed. NPS needs to work with partners to help serve these education groups.

## Data from the GPRA Visitor Survey -- 2005

Each summer, the Seashore distributes Visitor Survey cards to selected visitors for one week, and the data is compiled by the University of Idaho as a report for the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993. Each year's survey reflects visitor opinion about park facilities, services, and recreational opportunities. The results of the 2005 GPRA Visitor Survey is summarized below:

### 2005 Overall quality of facilities, services, & recreational opportunities

Very good:	59%
Good:	32% (91% satisfaction: combined Very Good and Good)
Average:	7%
Poor:	1%
Very Poor	1%

### 2005 Specific ratings of facilities, services, & recreational opportunities

Category	Approval Ratings				
Park Facilities	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Visitor Centers	56%	36%	8%	0%	0%
Exhibits	47%	40%	13%	0%	0%
Restrooms	48%	36%	11%	5%	0%
Walkways, Trails, Roads	52%	39%	8%	2%	1%
Camp/Picnic Areas	47%	35%	12%	6%	0%
Combined Facilities:	50%	38%	10%	2%	0%
Visitor Services	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Employee Assistance	75%	15%	9%	1%	0%
Interpretive Programs	67%	13%	20%	0%	0%
Park Map or Brochure	62%	31%	7%	0%	0%
Commercial Services	38%	44%	13%	5%	0%
Combined Visitor Services:	61%	25%	12%	2%	0%
Recreational Opportunities	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Learning about ...	59%	32%	7%	0%	2%
Outdoor Recreation	65%	26%	4%	4%	2%
Sightseeing	69%	27%	5%	0%	0%
Combined Recreation Ops:	63%	28%	5%	2%	2%



## Comments from GPRA Visitor Survey — 2005

*“more funds for national parks so future generations can experience the real parks.”*

*“Nice facilities — all staff were helpful and friendly. Very clean.”*

*“NPS has great employees who do a thankless job for very little pay. They are to be commended for all they do!”*

*“As the first National Seashore, the park is an exemplary resource. Its national significance is without question and is due to the distinctive cultural and environmental resources located on the Seashore.”*

*“The park is significant because of its wetlands, bird watching, different ecosystem, ocean and sounds, shrubs and trees not found elsewhere, and lighthouses and history.”*

*“Need more lifeguards and need more shower areas to rinse off when leaving beach.”*

*“Please make less beach area accessible to 4-wheel drive vehicles.”*

*“As holders of a National Parks Pass, we would have appreciated free admission or reduced entry to the lighthouse.”*

*“Need larger scale maps for senior citizens who can’t read tiny print.”*

*“We enjoyed our visit and climb to the top of Hatteras Lighthouse.”*

*“Accessible to all; I owned a piece of the Outer Banks for weekend!”*

*“This used to be some of the last unspoiled beaches/Seashore on the*

*East Coast.*

*“I love driving on the beach and surf fishing in the fall. Keep the beaches open for 4x4s. I hope funding is available to restore Bodie Island Light.”*

*“Much of the parking area was taken up by boat trailers.”*

*“The exhibits and gift shop should be separated at the Ocracoke Island Visitor Center.”*

*“Preserve nature and natural shoreline so it doesn’t go the way of huge rental houses.”*

*“We visit often from out of state and are always treated with respect by employees.”*

*“The educational programs we attended were outstanding! My three children earned their Junior Ranger badges, each completing age-appropriate materials.”*

*“Without these parks, my kids would have never understood the important balance between nature and the world today, and how we must protect it. Keep up the good work. The park and its rangers are vital.”*

## Visitor Study by the University of Idaho

In July 2002, a Visitor Services Project Study was conducted by the Park Studies Unit of the University of Idaho. The questionnaire for this visitor study was designed using the standard format that has been developed in previous Visitor Services Project studies. Interviews were conducted with, and questionnaires were distributed to, a sample of visitors who arrived at the Seashore during the period of July 12-18, 2002. Visitors were sampled as they arrived at eight locations within the park.

At the Seashore, 376 visitor groups were contacted and 356 of these groups (95%) accepted questionnaires. Of these 356 questionnaires, 263 were completed and returned, resulting in a response rate of 73.8% for this study.

Below and on the following pages are some results of this visitor study:

### Visitor Group Sizes

1 person	3%
2 people	28%
3 people	10%
4 people	18%
5 people	7%
6 to 10	23%
11 or more	10%

### Visitor Group Types

Family	61%
Family and friends	22%
Friends	10%
Alone	5%
Other	2%

### Number of Visits

First visit	33%
2-4 visits	27%
5-7 visits	15%
8 or more	25%

### Visitor Ages

10 & under	14%
11 to 15	11%
16 to 20	5%
21 to 25	4%
26 to 30	3%
31 to 35	8%
36 to 40	11%
41 to 45	11%
46 to 50	11%
51 to 55	8%
56 to 60	6%
61 to 65	3%
66 to 70	3%
71 to 75	1%
76 & older	1%

### State of Residence

Virginia	23%
North Carolina	28%
Ohio	10%
Pennsylvania	8%
Maryland	7%
New Jersey	6%
West Virginia	5%
New York	3%
Connecticut	3%
All other states	1% or less each
International	less than 1%

### Sources of Information used by Visitors

Previous visits	58%
Friends/relative	39%
Travel guide/tour book	19%
No information prior to visit	17%
Websites (other than NPS)	13%
Newspaper/magazine articles	10%
Rental property materials	9%
Cape Hatteras NS website	9%
Outer Banks Visitor Bureau	6%
Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce	4%
Videos/television/radio programs	4%
Telephone, emails or letters to park	3%

### Most Important Reasons for visiting Cape Hatteras NS

Lighthouse/s  
*mentioned 54 times*  
Beach/beachcombing/seashells  
*mentioned 33 times*  
Fishing/charters fishing  
*mentioned 18 times*  
Historical Significance  
*mentioned 17 times*  
Swimming  
*mentioned 14 times*  
Beach Access  
*mentioned 13 times*  
Beauty of the Area  
*mentioned 12 times*  
Camping  
*mentioned 9 times*  
Uncrowded/solitude  
*mentioned 9 times*  
Surfing/windsurfing  
*mentioned 8 times*

### Visitor Activities on this visit to Cape Hatteras NS

Swimming/sunbathing	78%
Visiting historic sites	70%
Walking	65%
Enjoying solitude	56%
Photography	53%
Beach driving	36%
Picnicking	26%
Surf fishing	26%

Note: attended ranger-led programs 9% (#15 on this list)

### Quality of Visitor Services on this visit to Cape Hatteras NS

Very good	56%
Good	38%
Average	6%
Poor	0%
Very poor	less than 1%

### Opinions about Crowding on this visit to Cape Hatteras NS

Not crowded at all	30%
Somewhat crowded	43%
Moderately crowded	21%
Very crowded	4%
Extremely crowded	2%

### Preparation for Safety Issues while at Cape Hatteras NS

Prepared? Yes	91%
Prepared? No	4%
Prepared? Not sure	5%

### Safety Situations encountered at Cape Hatteras NS

Sunburn *mentioned 64 times*  
Tide/currents *mentioned 9 times*  
Heat *mentioned 5 times*  
Ocean *mentioned 3 times*  
Rain *mentioned 2 times*

## Issues and Influences

This section includes issues and influences, both inside and outside the park, that affect the Seashore's interpretation and education programs. Many of these are issues that the park's interpretive efforts can help the park's managers and division chiefs to solve or mitigate. Others are issues that may influence the park's interpretive programs and, therefore, park managers need to consider while planning the park's future.

## Park-wide Issues

### Budget and Staffing

A Business Plan for the Seashore was written in 2004 through a grant from the National Park Foundation. That plan identified gaps between the current levels of the Seashore's budget and staffing the levels that are needed to keep the Seashore fully operational. The Business Plan noted a 53% funding shortfall for the Outer Banks Group. Since 1980, the Group's appropriated budget has increased by less than 3%, while visitation has increased over 41%.



*Some sections of NC Highway 12 have been moved westward because of shoreline migration.*

### Barrier Island Dynamics

Barrier islands, such as those comprising the Seashore, are by nature dynamic, and in a state of constant change through daily tide fluctuations, annual storm and hurricane impacts, and long term coastal erosion and sea level rise. Pre-storm preparations and post-storm recovery can have significant impact on park and regional operations.

Expectations of standardized and unchanging uses of Seashore lands by visitors and local users often conflict with the ever-changing park environment. This conflict affects beach nourishment, protection of NC Highway 12, off-road vehicle use, protected species management, Oregon Inlet dredging, hardening of seashore beaches, and relocation of historic structures.

## Tourism and Visitation

Successful local tourism marketing has resulted in significant rise in visitation to the Outer Banks and a corresponding rapid increase in visitation to the park. Impacts are seen, and will continue to increase as visitation increases, with both natural and cultural park resources and escalating conflict between various park user groups. Along with visitation increase, the park budget has remained flat, hampering management's ability to keep services parallel with visitor needs.

## Local Community Issues and Influences

Increased development of lands adjacent to the Seashore, and increased population and demographic transformation of adjacent communities have changed, and continue to change, expected uses and use impacts at the Seashore. Due to limited availability of non-federal lands, the park is sometimes requested to permit uses that may be incompatible with park values.

## Protected Species

The park's dynamic dunes and islands encompass a variety of habitats and are a valuable breeding and wintering area for species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and species protected under the Endangered Species Act. The season-to-season change in land location use of these mobile species creates variations in the park protection responses, causing consternation to some park users, mainly off-road vehicle users.

## Off-Road Vehicle Use

The Seashore is developing an Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) management plan/environmental impact statement and regulation for the Seashore. As well as the standard NEPA planning process, the NPS may use Negotiated Rulemaking as well. Executive Order 11644 of 1972, amended by Executive Order 11989 of 1977, requires certain federal agencies permitting ORV use on agency lands to publish regulations designating specific trails and areas for this use. Title 36, section 4.10 of the Code of Federal Regulations implements the executive orders by providing that routes and areas designated for off-road vehicle use shall be promulgated as special regulations. Section 4.10 also provides that the designation of routes and areas shall comply with E.O. 11644 and with section 1.5 of Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

## Public Involvement

Public awareness on critical issues, and management decision-making and direction is increasing. As this desirable public interest grows, the Seashore must adapt and respond with effective and efficient opportunities for public involvement. Public involvement will play a sig-

nificant role in the outcome of park planning efforts during this strategic cycle, including the Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan and an upcoming update of the park's General Management Plan.

## Information Technology

The park struggles to keep up with changes in information technology. This ties to a need for improved and effective use of staff time and improved information to park visitors given current industry standards and expectations.

## Linear Nature of the Park

The long, linear nature of the park complicates operational communications and travel with distance being a disadvantage. Seashore employees, including interpretive staff members, are required to take certain training courses each year. Travel time and coordination can complicate the ability of employees to take these courses. Seashore management needs to devise a strategy of targeted communication options to improve timely communications with the park staff, partners, visitors, and the general public. The linear nature of the park is often a challenge to effective communication processes.

## Interpretive Training for Park Staff

Most visitors associate anyone in an NPS uniform as a person who knows the park. In many cases, maintenance, law enforcement and resources management personnel are the first contact for visitors. A well-informed park staff can orient visitors and answer their immediate questions or direct them to an appropriate location to find the answers. Interpretive training can provide the tools that employees



*Anglers and other visitors use of Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs) at the Seashore is permitted year-round, but with limitations.*



need to better assist park visitors. Interpretive staff could also benefit from inter-divisional training by learning about other divisional issues. The goal of this training would be to provide safe and enjoyable visits for all park visitors.

## **Partnership Issues**

Seashore management increasingly depends on a variety of park partners to help provide services to park visitors. Several of the park's visitor facilities could not be adequately staffed without assistance from partners like EN and the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau. Although the Seashore has a good number of highly valued partnerships, there still exists great potential for the establishment of additional partners, leading to improvements in visitor service and resource protection.

The Seashore's limited interpretive staffing cuts both ways in the management of partnerships: partners can supplement areas where the Seashore is lacking in staff; however, lack of staff limits the amount of time that can be put towards partner-building and adequate management of partner agreements. The Seashore needs to be deliberative about entering into interpretive partnership arrangements, ensuring that the benefit for the visitor matches and/or exceeds the value of the staffing time needed to manage the relationship.

A good number of Seashore partner agreements have expired or are in needs of revision. The Seashore needs to better manage the administrative aspect of partner programs.

## **Natural Resource Management Issues**

### **Beach Nourishment**

As the ocean shoreline continues to move westward, the pressure for beach nourishment (i.e., pumping sand onto the beaches) will likely increase to protect private properties and NC Highway 12. However, beach nourishment is contrary to NPS Management Policies designed to protect natural coastal processes. One specific concern is the potential impact to marine invertebrates in the surf zone. Studies show dramatic declines in coquina clams and mole crabs for up to two years following beach nourishment projects. These animals serve as the prey base for many breeding wintering and migrating shorebirds.

### **Navigation and Dredging**

Dredging is an ongoing activity at Oregon Inlet, which is bordered by Bodie Island on the north and Pea Island Wildlife Refuge to the south. The park has supported the Corps of Engineers' dredging a channel under the Oregon Inlet Bridge (versus constructing mile-long jetties) to maintain a navigational channel there. But, as the Bodie Island spit continues to naturally grow southward, it fills the navigational channel and the Corps has to remove sand from the tip of the spit. This results in habitat loss for the Piping Plover and other breeding shorebirds.

## Fisheries and Water Quality

Among other factors, fisheries are influenced by commercial and sport fishing, loss of nursery habitat, and water quality. Water quality in the Albemarle-Pamlico estuary system has declined due to local development and pollution entering the system from rivers and streams.

## Exotic Plants

The threat of exotic plants increases with the development of adjacent lands. Property owners need to be aware of exotic species' impacts.

## Dunes

Manmade dunes were built from the Virginia state line to Ocracoke beginning in the 1930s. The NPS stopped maintaining these dunes in the early 1970s when it was shown that barrier island processes were being seriously impaired. Much of the dune line still remains. By stopping overwash, the dunes were keeping island sediments from building from beach to sound. Beaches bordered by the tall dune line were becoming narrower through sea level rise and storm driven waves. In this, many wide, flat beaches have been replaced by steep and narrow strands. Woody vegetation behind the dunes increased in the absence of overwash. Private development also increased in the absence of overwash. There is ongoing pressure to rebuild eroded dunes to protect existing development and NC Highway 12.

## Drainage Ditches and Hydrology

Various ditches, some dating back to the 1930s, were created to drain fresh water into the sounds. Some of these are responsible for draining

important wetlands. Others originating near villages and NC Highway 12 may be degrading water quality. Presently, the NPS is exploring solutions to a drainage issue at Cape Point. The park hopes to find a means to periodically drain ground water from its campgrounds and off-road vehicle trails while still protecting wetlands.

## Fire Management

Fire breaks have been created between villages and park boundaries as well as in areas of Buxton Woods. Because there is potential for fire in Buxton Woods' federal, state, and private lands, the need for controlled burns are identified in the park Fire Plan. Public education is needed.

## Protected Species

Federally-listed threatened and endangered species in the park include Piping Plover (all year), breeding sea turtles (loggerhead, green, leatherback), and sea-beach amaranth. State listed species that nest on park beaches include the Common, Least, and Gull-billed terns, Black skimmer, Wilson's Plover and American Oystercatcher. These protected species are impacted by human disturbance and loss of suitable habitat because of human recreational activities and predation.



*Sea turtles and other Federally protected species breed and nest on the Seashore's beaches.*

## **Cultural Resource Management Issues**

### **Archaeological Resources**

Shipwrecks on park beaches are generally exposed when the beach erodes during major storms and then are naturally reburied as the beach rebuilds. Every historical shipwreck site must be documented and protected under NPS archaeological guidelines. The NPS is creating a database for the purpose of tracking and studying these shipwrecks for public inquiries and research.

The park will soon be completing a conditions assessment of all park archeological sites. This resulting report will provide guidance to the park on protection and interpretation of these sites.

### **Historic Structures**

The park has 35 historic structures, 32 of which are on the National register, and one a National Historic Landmark (Cape Hatteras Lighthouse). Twenty-two of these structures are listed in good condition. The park faces a challenge in the maintenance and preservation of historic structures. Coastal environments, i.e. salt spray, high humidity, strong storms, lead to continual maintenance needs and accelerated deterioration of these structures. Although some structures are being restored, there has been a lack of cohesive planning as to the adaptive use of these structures once restoration is completed. Many structures do not have completed Historic Structures Reports – a fall-out of this issue is that some structures/sites are being restored to timeframes that may not bode well for historic interpretive efforts.

## **Artifacts/Collections**

The park has numerous artifacts that are stored in the Group's museum building and several on display in park visitor center. Museum standards should be met for all artifacts on display and should be regularly inspected by museum collection specialist for signs of deterioration and for security compliance.

## Maintenance Issues

### Coastal Environs

Coastal environs and barrier island dynamics (i.e. salt spray, high humidity, strong storms, ocean overwash, soundside flooding, and shoreline erosion) lead to continual maintenance needs and accelerated deterioration of park structures, equipment, roadways and access routes. Keeping park facilities and historic structures in safe and operable condition is a constant and significant workload difficult to keep up with current staffing levels.

### Green Energy

The park has several green energy projects already in place such as, wind turbine at Coquina Beach, geothermal heatpumps at the Cape Hatteras Light Station, electric powered vehicles in the campgrounds, alternative transportation planning for Ocracoke Village (in conjunction with Hyde County and NCDOT), and sustainable design/material and solar energy used at several day use sites. The park will continue to incorporate green energy in planning and projects. Green energy/environmentally friendly projects and infrastructure use by the park, i.e. movable oceanside structures, use of crushed shell rather than asphalt on ocean and soundside access routes, can be interpretive in and of itself in leading by example.

## Law Enforcement Issues

### Illegal Activities

The recreational use of the park by over 2.3 million visitors per year does come with the unfortunate occurrence of violation of the law. Most infractions within the park involve the illegal use of alcohol, dogs who are off-leash, motor vehicles, camping, campfires on the beach, fireworks, metal detectors, and nude bathing.

The lack of adequate information/orientation facilities at the main entrances to the park compounds the ability of NPS staff to provide adequate orientation to park visitors. Many park visitors never encounter NPS staff and thereby are not being given the opportunity to understand, or be made aware of, park rules and regulations and the value of protecting the park's natural and cultural resources. Much of the violations occurring in the park are due to visitor ignorance of park rules and regulations, and ignorance of the importance of resource protection. Given the current lack of adequate orientation facilities, the park needs to look at alternate methods.



*Bodie Island Lighthouse has been closed to visitors since 2004 when iron pieces fell from the metal collar near its top.*

## Safety Issues

### Employee Safety

Along with protecting natural and cultural resources and serving park visitors, the NPS strives to provide its employees with a safe work environment. The Seashore's Division of Interpretation can positively impact employee safety by demonstrating that healthy, productive employees are the park's most important resource and that employee safety is the park's most important value.

Employees and managers must demonstrate an unwavering commitment to continuous improvement in employee health and safety by incorporating safety into all decision-making processes and into the overall planning cycle. Employees must eliminate all at-risk behaviors and control job hazards. Effective and appropriate safety/occupational health training should be conducted on a regular basis. Written safety rules and practices must be understood and followed by all employees.

The majority of employee injuries at the Seashore involve insect bites (ticks, spiders), back injuries from lifting, and "struck-by" injuries (falling items).



*Visitors to the Seashore's beaches need safety information on sunburn, heat issues, rip currents, jellyfish, underwater objects and weather conditions.*

### Visitor Safety

Many visitors have never experienced the beach or ocean before and are unprepared for the issues that may occur. Visitors need basic education on beach-related safety concerns such as personal heat issues (sunburn, heat exhaustion, heat stroke), rip currents, wildlife (jellyfish, insects, sharks), underwater objects, weather conditions, and surf conditions.

The Division of Interpretation can affect visitor safety by providing visitor safety messages with every interpretive program. These safety messages will include the specific hazards associated with the interpretive event and general information about ocean swimming hazards (specifically rip currents), heat stress, and other hazards found in the Seashore's environment.

Visitor safety awareness can also be increased by addressing hazards found in the natural environment in publications and brochures as well as by hazard detection and abatement in visitor use areas.

Bicycling is a popular form of recreation and transportation on the Seashore. However, with no bike paths or trails, it can be dangerous, especially for the inexperienced. Many visitors do not realize the long distances on the Seashore or the dangers of bicycling on busy highways and often do not take the proper precautions such as wearing suitable gear and following bicycle etiquette, laws, and safe-riding practices.



## Interpretation Issues

### Interpretive Staffing

Limited staff greatly impacts interpretive operations. In 2005, there was only one permanent interpreter stationed on the entire Seashore. Visitation in 2005 was 2,260,628. Similar limitations in staffing at Wright Brothers NMEM and Fort Raleigh NHS site also affects the Seashore, due to the impact this has on general management of the Outer Banks Group Interpretive Division.

Interpretive needs exist on the Seashore year-round, including: staffing visitor centers and museums, presenting interpretive and education programs on a wide range of topics and resources; staffing and interpreting a variety of historic structures; providing informal and roving interpretation; developing and maintaining non-personal interpretive products such as bulletin boards, exhibits, websites and publications; assisting other park divisions; and performing other duties that arise. During busy summer months, the needs are compounded by the lack of permanent staff and the almost total reliance on seasonal rangers, leading to a lack of on-site leadership and continuity. Seasonal staff must learn a large amount and variety of information in a very short amount of time to be ready for summer operations. In winter, the lack of staff often leads to NPS interpreters staffing EN bookstores, EN staff covering the visitor centers without an NPS presence, staffing multiple buildings with one person, inability to provide interpretive programs for groups including school tours, and the inability to travel even within the park for meetings or training. Development and improvement in

Divisional operations and programming, especially education programming, is virtually impossible with so little staff.

### Visitor Orientation and Information Services

Main park orientation facilities need to be established at the north and south ends of the Seashore to provide for adequate orientation and information services and a basic overview of park interpretive themes, park resources, and recreational opportunities. Current visitor centers, in both structure and location, do not adequately serve these purposes for the great number of visitors that come to the park. The lack of adequate orientation/information facilities leads to continued violation of park regulations, diminished appreciation of park resources, and unawareness of ocean and beach safety issues and concerns due to the inability of the park to provide this basic information to park visitors. Improved orientation facilities at park entrances would greatly enhance NPS identity for visitors in this park

### Interpretive Training

Currently there is very little formal interpretive training for the park's permanent interpretive staff. Training for seasonal staff is challenging because the start dates of the Seashore's seasonal staff are staggered, depending on district needs. Hatteras Island seasonals start the earliest and generally attend a thorough two-week training course; some park partners may participate in this training by providing sessions such as lighthouse history from members of the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society. Bodie Island and Ocracoke Island seasonals start later in the season and



*Some of the Seashore's beaches have lifeguards during the summer, but most of the beaches have no lifeguards year-round.*



sometimes receive only “on the job training.” Because volunteers throughout the Seashore often change, they usually receive only “on the job training” as well. This puts added burden on these park staff members to quickly learn the required material and develop programs in a finite time period while learning the basics of the job.

Training through partners such as USFWS or formal NPS training is rare and often staff cannot take advantage of these opportunities due to staffing demands. A better training program needs to be developed that allows all staff, no matter what time of the year they start, a chance to learn the information before being inundated with the day-to-day activities of the park. Furthermore, cross-divisional training and inclusion of partners in training opportunities needs to be further developed. This would allow interpreters to learn more about other divisions and partners as well as receive vital information from subject-matter experts on topics such as the park’s protected species.

### **Balance of Cultural History vs. Natural History Interpretation**

In recent years, the Seashore’s interpretive program (personal and non-personal) balance has generally leaned more toward cultural history than natural history. Two of the park’s visitor centers are located at lighthouse sites, which lends site interpretive media to be directed towards those historic resources. There has also been a heavy emphasis on cultural history in personal services programming. This is especially true in the Hatteras Island District as the fee-funded project for seasonal staffing the Cape

Hatteras Lighthouse focuses these fee-funded staff on the interpretation of that structure. Currently all Hatteras Island District seasonal interpretive staff are funded from lighthouse fee project monies. There is a need to provide interpretive efforts that assure a balanced program park-wide.

### **Issue-Based Interpretation**

There are many issues facing the Seashore, i.e. ORV use, protected species management, wetlands development, water quality, beach erosion, etc. Interpretive programming and media could be a useful outreach tool for park management with both the visitor and the local community in addressing and educating the public about these issues and how they can be involved in park planning efforts.

### **Community Interpretation**

Interpretive programming has the potential to be an excellent vehicle through which park management can educate the local communities about the park’s natural and cultural resources, recreational opportunities, and park regulations, resource protection policies, and issues. Community interpretation can be targeted to identified audiences, i.e. the growing Hispanic community.

### **Education Programming**

No formal education programming exists on the Seashore. The park needs to develop education programming particularly within the local school systems. Such programming will have long-term benefit for the park and go a great ways towards improving community relations. Many of the park stories relate directly to the ancestors of children living on these barrier islands. A personal connection

developed with these children and their heritage will help in the long-term understanding and protection of park resources, and help lead to maintaining cultural heritage integrity in local communities.

### **Suitable Areas for Interpretive Programming**

There is a need in each district of the park to improve the areas where formal interpretive programs can be offered. Currently, only the Hatteras Island District has a covered outdoor pavilion for programs and an indoor program area (which is not designed to be a program area because it is a small room in a historic building and it only seats 25). Bodie Island and Ocracoke Island rely on porches and the shade of trees for its interpretive program areas. Neither the Bodie Island District nor the Ocracoke Island District has an indoor area for audiovisual programs or interpretive programs in case of inclement weather. Available parking is also an issue for some of programs.

Furthermore, due to the lack of large outdoor or indoor programming space and equipment throughout the park, the only night time programs currently offered are campfires (weather permitting).

### **Recruiting Volunteers**

Volunteers support interpretive operations, improve interpretive materials, and produce additional research as well as allow paid staff the time to seek additional opportunities for training and career advancement. Prospective volunteers are recruited through the NPS volunteer website, word of mouth, and outside publications geared toward workampers. The Seashore maintains a volunteer website ([www.nps.gov/caha/volunteer.htm](http://www.nps.gov/caha/volunteer.htm)) which provides general information on the volunteer program. Generally, most volunteer work occurs from March through November. With additional resources and funding, the park could recruit more volunteers with recreational vehicles for some districts. Local volunteers are recruited through partner organizations, local publications, local posting locations (bulletin boards in grocery stores, post office), and schools. A Volunteer Needs Assessment needs to be completed to determine the volunteer needs Group-wide by division to include type of volunteers needed, number of volunteers, dates of volunteer service needed, etc. Once completed, this assessment will serve as a volunteer targeted recruiting tool for the Group.



*Volunteers support many of the park's interpretive operations from March through November each year.*

### **Interpretive Work/Storage Space and Equipment**

Interpretive efforts are currently hampered by inadequate equipment as well as a shortage of both work space and storage space throughout the park, especially in the Ocracoke Island District. Dedicated space is needed for park libraries, general study and work areas, computer work areas, lockable storage for staff, and storage for interpretive media, supplies, and props.

Equipment needs include dedicated internet lines that are not dial-up. Communication both with the general public and within the park is turning more and more to the electronic format, yet interpretive rangers often cannot access the internet due to the lack of a dedicated computer line or because of the inadequacy of dial-up lines on the Seashore. More computers, especially laptops, would aid interpreters in researching and developing programs as well as improve quality customer service. Other equipment needs for the Interpretive Division include laminators, more than one video camera, a 4-wheel drive vehicle for Ocracoke Island, and a Power Point projector. A separate fax line for the Ocracoke Visitor Center and Xerox machines throughout are also needed.

### **ADA Accessibility**

Accessibility for disabled or impaired visitors needs to be improved throughout the park to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1991. The park needs to provide accessibility in all aspects including the campgrounds, ranger/volunteer led programs, exhibits and displays, audio-visual programs, publications, signs, and more. Audio tours of the buildings and grounds in each district, closed captioning of the videos, large print site bulletins, hands-on interactive exhibits and programs are a few ways the interpretive division can aid those with physical and sensory impairments to better understand and enjoy the cultural and natural resources of the Seashore.

### **Information Sharing**

Cross-divisional sharing of information as well as sharing with partner organizations needs to be better developed and formalized. Often information is received only when a question is raised or after the fact. A better system of information sharing, including updates on park research/studies, needs to be developed so that all divisions know what is going on in the park, as well as with our partners, and the interpretive staff can provide better visitor services.

# EXISTING CONDITIONS

## Existing Conditions, 2005

### Interpretive Staffing

In FY 2005 the park interpretive staff at the Seashore was:

Position Title	Status	Grade	FTE*	Incumbent
<b>Headquarters</b>				
Chief Park Interpreter	Permanent	GS-12	1.0	Toni Dufficy
VIP Coordinator	Perm., STF	GS-6	0.8	Maggie Tyler
Administrative Assistant	Permanent	GS-5	1.0	Geneva James
<b>Bodie Island</b>				
Park Ranger (Interp)	Seasonal	GS-7	0.5	
Summer Park Ranger	Seasonal	GS-5	0.3	
Summer Park Ranger	Seasonal	GS-5	0.3	
<b>Hatteras Island</b>				
Summer Park Ranger	Seasonal	GS-7	0.5	
Summer Park Ranger	Seasonal	GS-5	0.5	
Summer Park Ranger	Seasonal	GS-5	0.5	
Summer Park Ranger	Seasonal	GS-5	0.5	
Summer Park Ranger	Seasonal	GS-5	0.5	
Summer Park Ranger	Seasonal	GS-5	0.5	
Summer Park Ranger	Seasonal	GS-5	0.5	
Summer Park Ranger	Seasonal	GS-5	0.5	
Summer Park Ranger	Seasonal	GS-5	0.5	
Summer Park Ranger	Seasonal	GS-5	0.5	
Winter Park Guide	Seasonal, PT	GS-4	0.5	
<b>Ocracoke Island</b>				
Park Ranger (Interp)	Permanent	GS-9	1.0	Gail Fox
Summer Park Ranger	Seasonal	GS-5	0.3	
Summer Park Ranger	Seasonal	GS-5	0.3	

Total FTEs: 11.5

Plus 32,282 hours from Volunteers-In-Parks (VIPs) and park partners.

\*FTE stands for 'Full-Time Equivalency' (one work-year: 2,080 hours)

## Interpretive Facilities

### Whalebone Junction Information Station

Just inside the Seashore's northern boundary — as North Carolina Highway 12 (NC 12) enters the park — is the Whalebone Junction Information Station. This NPS visitor facility is a small one-room wooden building with a front and side porch. A bulletin board display case is on the side porch.

Despite its prominent location at the northern entrance to the Seashore, the facility receives modest visitation likely due to the location, size, and lack of developed orientation services, interpretive exhibits, and programs.

A visitor information desk inside the building is staffed by employees of the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from March through December. They stock wall racks which hold hundreds of rack cards, folders, and brochures that provide information on a variety of visitor attractions in the Outer Banks area. The facility is closed to public September through February. Restrooms are available in a separate building across a 25-space parking area.

### Bodie Island Visitor Center

Approximately six miles south of the Seashore's northern boundary is the Bodie Island Visitor Center. This NPS visitor center is located in the historic Bodie Island Lighthouse Double Keepers Quarters building at the end of a short park road off of NC 12. Inside, the building's first floor has a 14 x 25.5 ft room with exhibits created in the 1990s on the Bodie Island Lighthouse history. The other half of the first floor

contains sales displays and a sales desk operated by EN. The building's second floor holds staff office space and storage areas.

This visitor center is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day, and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. the rest of the year. The facility is closed on December 25. NPS and EN employees staff the center April through October. EN employees staff the center the rest of the year. Restrooms are available in a small building at the end of a 75-space parking area.

Outside the visitor center, a path leads to the 156-ft. Bodie Island Lighthouse where visitors can enter only the base of the lighthouse when volunteers are available to staff it. (The lighthouse was closed in 2005 until its balcony metal collar is repaired and stabilized.) The path to the lighthouse continues to a wildlife observation deck on the edge of a freshwater pond. The Bodie Island Dike Trail, which starts along the dirt road leading to the Off-Island boat ramp, is in good condition, however the numbered interpretive sign posts are missing.

### Hatteras Island Visitor Center (Bookstore and Contact Station)

About 50 miles south of the Seashore's north entrance is the Hatteras Island Visitor Center. This visitor center is within a small group of modern and historic structures located around the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. The interpretive space in the visitor center consists of two large bulletin boards and a small information desk. Behind the desk is a small office and storage closet. Most of the rest of this building's floor space contains EN sales dis-



*New visitor facilities were constructed after the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse was moved from its original location in 2000.*



plays and a sales desk operated by EN. Behind this area is a large storage space for EN stock, some NPS closets, and a break room.

The visitor center is open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. the rest of the year. The facility is closed on December 25. Staffing consists of NPS and EN employees Easter through Columbus Day, and EN staffing (with available volunteers) the rest of the year.

Outside the visitor center is a deck. From the deck, a path leads to a small ticket booth where, from April through October, visitors can purchase “timed tickets” to enter the 208-ft. Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and climb its 257 stairs. Summer visitors who want to enter the lighthouse may wait up to two hours for their ticketed tour time.

## **Cape Hatteras Museum of the Sea**

About 100 yards from the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse is the Museum of the Sea within the historic Double Keepers Quarters building. Inside, the museum’s first floor has two rooms with exhibits created in the 1970s covering a variety of cultural and natural history themes. The first floor also has a very small presentation room for audiovisual programs (seats 25), a small library, and staff offices. The museum’s second floor has two exhibit rooms, two offices, and a break room for staff and volunteers.

The museum and is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day, and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. the rest of the year. The facility is closed on December 25. Staffing consists of 12 NPS staff

Easter through Columbus Day, and two NPS seasonal staff and available volunteers the rest of the year.

## **Principle Keepers Quarters**

The bottom floor of this historic structure is currently empty and used for summer interpretive programs. The top floor houses the volunteer coordinator’s office.

## **Ocracoke Visitor Center**

Near the Seashore’s southern edge in the village of Ocracoke is the Ocracoke Island Visitor Center. This very small visitor center is located in a modern building at the end of NC 12 where it enters a ferry terminal (that vehicles and passengers can take to Swan Quarter or Cedar Island on the North Carolina mainland). Inside Ocracoke Island’s 23\_ x 26\_ft\_, one-story visitor center is a mix of exhibits and sales displays. These exhibits were created in the 1980s on a range of Ocracoke Island focused stories. The majority of this visitor center’s floor space contains EN sales displays and a desk operated by EN and NPS staff. The building also holds office space for NPS staff and EN staff and storage.

This visitor center is open daily 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day, and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. the rest of the year. The facility is closed on December 25. Restrooms are available across a large wooden deck in a building that is adjacent to the visitor center.

Outside the visitor center are two bulletin boards and a small area with seats for programs. From the visitor center, visitors can walk or drive 3/4 mile to the 75-ft. Ocracoke Lighthouse where visitors can enter the base of the lighthouse only when volunteers are there to staff it.



## Media Conditions

### MIDS Summary

Media conditions for all NPS areas are listed in the service-wide Media Inventory Database System (MIDS); the MIDS intranet website is: [www.hfc.nps.gov/mids/](http://www.hfc.nps.gov/mids/). The MIDS summary for Cape Hatteras NS reflects the Seashore's media conditions. A designated interpreter updates the park's MIDS summary whenever new media is installed at the Seashore.

### Website

The Seashore's website (<http://www.nps.gov/caha/>) is linked to the NPS ParkNet website. The Seashore's website home page presents basic park information, links to other Seashore sites, and links to some partners' websites and information.

### Audiovisual Programs

The only audiovisual program venue at the Seashore is a "Presentation Room" in the Museum of the Sea near the Cape Hatteras lighthouse. This 19' x 15' room has seating space for 25 chairs on a flat floor. Videotape programs are shown on a television using a VCR or DVD player. The audiovisual programs below are shown here on a regular or intermittent basis depending on the season and visitor requests.

#### "Moving America's Lighthouse"

This 60-minute film was produced by NAKA Productions in 2000, and is shown in the Presentation Room once a day during the summer and by request. It is a good quality production but too long for this venue.

#### "Move of the Century"

This 60-minute film was produced by Video Marketing Group, Inc. in 1999, and is shown in the Presentation Room once a day during the summer and by request. It is a good quality production but it needs to be edited down to 20 minutes for this venue and also edited to a 5-minute version for other locations. (\* NPS does not have Use Rights.)

#### "Graveyard of the Atlantic, Part I"

This 45-minute film was produced by Video Marketing Group, Inc. in 1997, and is shown by request. It is a good quality production.

#### "Graveyard of the Atlantic, Part II"

This 45-minute film was produced by Video Marketing Group, Inc. in 1997, and is shown by request. It is a good quality production.

#### "Rip Currents"

This 7-minute film was produced by Metro Video Productions for the NC Sea Grant in 1998, and is shown once a day during the summer season as well as by request. It is a good quality production.

#### "Stairway to the Top"

This 15-minute film was produced by Boyer Productions and is shown by request. It is a good quality production but often cannot be shown when requested due to longer movies already being shown.

#### "Before It's Too Late"

A short video about the piping plover.

## Exhibits

The Seashore has exhibits at each of its three visitor centers and at the Museum of the Sea. Most of these exhibits are at least 20 years old and are unsatisfactory in either condition and/or content. The existing exhibit areas at the Seashore are:

### Bodie Island Visitor Center Exhibit Area

This exhibit area has 350 sq. ft. within one room of the historic Bodie Island Lighthouse Double Keepers Quarters building. Two exhibit cases (1993) have flat panels attached to their back sides that show enlarged drawings and photographs of the Bodie Island lighthouses. Also, flat panels are mounted on three walls and interpret lighthouse types, a map of lighthouses, and lighthouse keepers and their families.

### Hatteras Island Visitor Center (Bookstore and Contact Station) Exhibit Area

Temporary displays are within a structure built in 2002 when the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse was moved to its current location. This display area is to the right as visitors enter the building and a large area to the left is for EN sales. To the left of the desk are sections of a fresnel lens.

### Hatteras Island Museum of the Sea Exhibit Area

This exhibit area has 1,216 sq. ft. on two floors of the historic Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Double Keepers Quarters. This exhibit area (1981) has angled, free-standing exhibit panels. The exhibits on the first floor interpret the Graveyard of the Atlantic, types of ships, the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, Life Saving Service, and the U.S. Coast

Guard; a hands-on “mystery box” exhibit was added in 2004. Exhibits on the second floor interpret the Civil War, World War I, World War II, recreational opportunities, shifting sands, and some “firsts” at Cape Hatteras.

### Ocracoke Island Visitor Center Exhibit Area

This exhibit area is within a structure built in 1979 and has 600 sq. ft., although the actual exhibit space is difficult to measure separately since it is significantly mixed among a large number of EN sales displays. The exhibits are mostly wall-mounted panels with large routed-wood titles over each. Topics/titles include: Ocracoke discovery, Outer Banks orientation, early tourism, changing Ocracoke, Ocracoke horses, World War II, Life Saving Stations, Ocracoke Lighthouse, Blackbeard and pirates, seashells, birds (which are labeled and mounted in the ceiling rafters), and an events board with the park’s current events and interpretive schedules.



*The Museum of the Sea exhibits at Hatteras Island were planned and built for another building, but were retrofitted for the Double Keepers Quarters.*

## **Publications**

There are a variety of free publications at the Seashore. The publications listed below are those free publications available to visitors throughout the Seashore.

### **Cape Hatteras National Seashore Official 'Unigrid' Brochure**

The Cape Hatteras NS park brochure started out as a “mini-folder” in 1970. In 1978, Harpers Ferry Center (HFC) developed a “Unigrid brochure” for Cape Hatteras in an A-6 size and printed it in a 2-color format. HFC converted it to a 4-color brochure in 1983. In 2004, the brochure was digitized, new grids were applied, and the NPS arrowhead added. The park received 200,000 brochures in 2003 and 150,000 more in 2005; the park gives out approximately 100,000 copies annually.

The top of the current brochure’s front features a color photograph of sand dunes with Cape Hatteras Lighthouse in the distance, introductory text, and a montage of color photographs. The bottom of the brochure’s front side has two historic photographs overlaying a contemporary beach/surf photograph which separates two text blocks: “Where Sand and Sea Merge” and “Graveyard of the Atlantic.”

The top of the brochure’s back side contains text blocks on “Touring the Island,” “Camping,” and “Lighthouses and Life Saving Station” over top of a full-length map of the Cape Hatteras and Outer Banks region. The bottom has text on “How to Reach the Islands,” “Information,” “Safety Today,” and “Visiting Nearby Parks.”

## **Park Newspaper In-House “In The Park”**

The Seashore currently prints two editions of their full-color park newspaper each year: 65,000 copies of the summer edition, and 35,000 of the fall-winter-spring edition. The design and publication of the newspaper is contracted. The summer newspaper covers interpretive programs and news articles for the NPS areas administered by the “Outer Banks Group” — Cape Hatteras NS, Wright Brothers National Memorial, and Fort Raleigh National Historic Site. The newspaper is paid for by the Group’s EN Interpretive Donations Account. This account is funded through a percentage of the proceeds received from EN sales in the three NPS areas administered by the Group.

### **Park Brochure on “Helpful Information from Cape Hatteras National Seashore”**

The brochure attempts to answer frequently asked questions and provide important visitor safety and resource protection messages. Approximately 100,000 copies are printed each year or two using the EN Interpretive Donations Account.

### **In-House Publications at Cape Hatteras NS**

Since the early 1990s, the Seashore has developed a series of free handouts known as site bulletins. These handouts have been printed by through the EN Interpretive Donations Account for the past 15 years. The following is a list of the park's existing site bulletins (although all are not currently available):

- Planning Your Visit
- Dynamics and Decisions
- Barrier Islands Ecology
- Bodie Island Lighthouse
- Cape Hatteras Lighthouse
- Ocracoke Lighthouse
- Ocracoke Walking Tour
- Bodie Island Dike Trail
- Lost to the Perils of the Sea
- Off-Road Vehicles
- Man the Beach Cart
- Balancing Act
- Ground Water
- Blackbeard
- Wild Bankers of Ocracoke
- Torpedo Junction
- Moving the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse
- Fresnel Lens

The Seashore's Junior Ranger Booklet is designed by park staff. The printing is paid for by an annual donation from the N.C. Beach Buggy Association.

The brochure, Birds of the Outer Banks, was designed and funded by the NPS and USFWS.

### **Publications by Other Organizations**

The Seashore currently has available a number of free publications at park visitor centers that have been developed by other agencies and organizations. As of 2005, these other free publications include:

- The Piping Plover (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
- Ocracoke Historical Interpretive Trail (Hyde County, NC)
- Outer Banks Visitors Guide (Outer Banks Visitors Bureau)



### Listing for Park CAHA, Media AV,Exhibit,Furnishings,Interpretive Planning,Publications

#### Inventory Listing: Records 1 to 12 of 13

Select the Media Title link to view a detailed record.

Park	Media	Last Update	Media Title	Content/ Condition Acceptable	Install Date	HFC Produced
CAHA	AV	02/25/2006	<a href="#">Before It's Too Late (Piping Plovers)</a>	Yes / Yes		No
CAHA	EXH	02/18/2006	<a href="#">Bodie Island Visitor Center</a>	Yes / Yes		Don't Know
CAHA	EXH	03/04/2006	<a href="#">Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Contact Station</a>	No / Yes	2004	No
CAHA	EXH	03/04/2006	<a href="#">Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Museum</a>	Yes / Yes		Don't Know
CAHA	PUBL	04/19/2006	<a href="#">Cape Hatteras Official Park Map and Guide PDF</a>	Yes / Yes		Yes
CAHA	INTRP	12/19/2001	<a href="#">General Management Plan</a>	Yes / Yes		Yes
CAHA	AV	02/25/2006	<a href="#">Graveyard of the Atlantic, Part I</a>	Yes / Yes	1997	No
CAHA	AV	02/25/2006	<a href="#">Graveyard of the Atlantic, Part II</a>	Yes / Yes	1997	No
CAHA	AV	02/25/2006	<a href="#">Move of the Century</a>	Yes / Yes	1999	No
CAHA	AV	02/25/2006	<a href="#">Moving America's Lighthouse</a>	Yes / Yes	2000	No
CAHA	EXH	02/18/2006	<a href="#">Ocracoke Island Visitor Center</a>	Yes / Yes		Don't Know
CAHA	AV	02/25/2006	<a href="#">Rip Currents</a>	Yes / Yes	1998	No

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[MIDS Home](#)


The NPS's media inventory data system summary for CAHA NS shows the Audiovisual, Exhibits, Historic Furnishings, Interpretive Planning and Published Media at the Seashore. The Park also has 50 wayside exhibits listed in MIDS.



## Wayside Exhibits

### Anodized Aluminum

The Seashore has anodized aluminum wayside exhibits that were produced in the 1970s for several Seashore locations. These include:

Wayside Exhibit title	Location
The Bodie Island	Pond Trail at Bodie Island
A Closer Look	Pond Trail at Bodie Island
Wingbeats And Wet Feet	Pond Trail at Bodie Island
Men And The Marsh	Pond Trail at Bodie Island
Portrait Of Change	Pond Trail at Bodie Island
What Grows Here?	Pond Trail at Bodie Island
Who Lives In The Marsh?	Pond Trail at Bodie Island
Our Link With The Sun	Pond Trail at Bodie Island
The Buxton Woods	Buxton Woods Trail
Relative Isolation	Buxton Woods Trail
Migrating Islands	Buxton Woods Trail
Dunes	Buxton Woods Trail
Land of Change	Buxton Woods Trail
A Wide Island Is A Stable Island	Buxton Woods Trail
Life On The Beach	Buxton Woods Trail
The Forest	Buxton Woods Trail
Ground Chemistry	Buxton Woods Trail
An Oasis	Buxton Woods Trail
Watch Your Step	Buxton Woods Trail
Ground Water: A Closed System	Buxton Woods Trail
Sedges...A Temporary Feature	Buxton Woods Trail
Man's Needs	Buxton Woods Trail
Live Oak	Buxton Woods Trail
A Big Southern Bayberry	Buxton Woods Trail
Loblolly Pine	Buxton Woods Trail
A Delicate Balance	Buxton Woods Trail
Waves of Sand	Buxton Woods Trail
A Big Flowering Dogwood	Buxton Woods Trail
Birds; Character of Buxton Woods	Buxton Woods Trail
Poison Ivy	Buxton Woods Trail
Dwarf Palmetto	Buxton Woods Trail
American Hornbeam	Buxton Woods Trail
Fight For Survival	Buxton Woods Trail
Survival Secrets	Hammock Hills Nature Trail
Shrub Thicket	Hammock Hills Nature Trail
Hiding Behind The Dunes	Hammock Hills Nature Trail



*Most of the Seashore's wayside exhibits are the anodized aluminum type that were produced in the 1970s.*



Secondary Dunes	Hammock Hills Nature Trail
Pine Forest	Hammock Hills Nature Trail
The Salt Marsh	Hammock Hills Nature Trail
Hunting Success	Hammock Hills Nature Trail
Excellent Hiding Place	Hammock Hills Nature Trail
Home For Smaller Animals	Hammock Hills Nature Trail
Where Are The Critters?	Hammock Hills Nature Trail
More Than A Beach	Hammock Hills Nature Trail
Light for Ocracoke Inlet	Ocracoke Lighthouse

### Screen-printed, Fiberglass-embedded

The Seashore has a few screen-printed, fiberglass-embedded panels that were produced in the 1980s, 1999, and 2004. These include:

Wayside Exhibit title	Location
World War II, U.S. Dionysus	Oregon Inlet Fishing Center
The Fanny	Salvo Day Use Area
Life at the Light	Lighthouse historic district
Cape Hatteras Lightkeepers	Old lighthouse site
Operation Drumbeat	Buxton British Cemetery

### Carved and Etched Granite Markers

In 2003, the Outer Banks Civil War Trail Committee donated 5 granite markers with carved letters and etched images related to Civil War events at the Seashore. These include:

Wayside Exhibit title	Location
The Loss of the US Monitor	Ramp 55
Fort Clark	Ramp 55
Burnside's Expedition	Ramp 55
Crossing Hatteras Bar	
Fort Ocracoke	Ocracoke Island, NPS boat ramp

## Bulletin Cases -

### Bodie Island

- 1 Whalebone (small style/ non-NPS key)
- 2 Ramp 1
- 3 Coquina beach parking lot (far north end of lot)
- 4 Coquina beach (small style/non-NPS key)
- 5 Ramp 2
- 6 Oregon Inlet campground bathroom 1
- 7 Oregon Inlet campground bathroom 2
- 8 Oregon Inlet campground bathroom 3
- 9 Oregon Inlet campground kiosk (small version/non-NPS key)
- 10 Ramp 4
- 11 Oregon Inlet marina boat ramp

**Hatteras Island**

- 1 Salvo Day Use area (being repaired)
- 2 Ramp 23
- 3 Ramp 27
- 4 Ramp 30
- 5 Ramp 34
- 6 Ramp 38
- 7 Haul Over Day Use (southern half of parking lot)
- 8 HIVE bathrooms (small version w/push-on plastic letters/ non-NPS key)
- 9 HIVE / bookstore (small version/ non-NPS key)
- 10 Walkway by CH lighthouse kiosk
- 11 Buxton Woods Trail parking lot
- 12 Ramp 43
- 13 Ramp 44
- 14 Cape Point Campground bathroom 1
- 15 Cape Point Campground bathroom 2
- 16 Cape Point Campground bathroom 3
- 17 Cape Point Campground bathroom 4
- 18 Cape Point Campground kiosk (small version/ non NPS key)
- 19 Ramp 49
- 20 Frisco campground bathroom 1
- 21 Frisco campground bathroom 2
- 22 Frisco campground bathroom 3
- 23 Frisco Campground kiosk (small version/ non NPS key)
- 24 Frisco Beach Day Use
- 25 Sandy Bay Soundside Day Use
- 26 Ramp 55 parking lot
- 27 Ramp 55 (intersection of ramp and inner dunal road)

**Ocracoke Island**

- 1 Ramp 59
- 2 Parking Lot between Prong Road and Borrow Pit Road
- 3 Parking Lot north of the Pony Pen
- 4 Pony Pen (different style than the others; key-locking)
- 5 Parking Lot across from Pony Pen
- 6 Parking Lot at ramp 68, next to campground
- 7 Campground restroom
- 8 Campground restroom
- 9 Campground restroom
- 10 Lifeguard beach
- 11 Ramp 70 (airport)
- 12 Ramp 72 (South Point Road)
- 13 Ocracoke Lighthouse
- 14 Boat docks
- 15 Visitor Center - Cape Hatteras NS information
- 16 Visitor Center - Cape Lookout NS information
- 17 Ranger Station
- 18 Campground Kiosk

## Interpretive Programs

### Bodie Island

• Staff the Bodie Island Visitor Center (along with EN employees) daily from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Interpretive Programs include:

“Sentinel of the Shore” (30 minutes): presents the current status and future plans for the majestic Bodie Island Lighthouse. Program is offered every day at 11:00 a.m.; Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

“Especially for Kids” (45 minutes): hands-on, fun activities for kids while learning about the Seashore. Program is offered Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2:00 p.m.; Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:00 a.m.

“Catchin’ Crabs” (90 minutes): visitors learn all about blue crabs and try their hand at catching them. Program is offered Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.

“Explore the Shore” (60 minutes): a walk along the beach with a ranger to explore this ever-changing world. Program is offered on Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.

“Outer Banks History” (30 minutes): topics include shipwrecks, early settlers, German U-Boats, etc. Program is offered Sundays, Tuesdays, and Saturdays at 3:30 p.m.

“Barrier Island Nature” (30 minutes): topics include wildlife, shell dwellers, horseshoe crabs, and coastal geology. Program is offered Mondays at 3:30 p.m., Fridays at 2:00 p.m., Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

“Turtle Talk” (45 minutes): an in-depth look at efforts to protect the threatened and endangered sea turtles that nest on the park’s beaches. Program is on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. and Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.

“Sea Life Prints” (60 minutes): visitors bring a t-shirt to decorate with ocean art. Program is offered Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.

“Seashore Story Time” (30 minutes): young children experience the joy of reading while learning about the Seashore. Program is offered Mondays 2:00 p.m.

“Evening Campfire” (60 minutes): visitors hear stories of the Outer Banks including shipwrecks, pirates, sea life, and legends. Program is offered Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.

### Hatteras Island

• Staff the Hatteras Island Visitor Center (along with EN employees) and the Museum of the Sea daily from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day; take the tickets and give safety talk at the base of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse; staff the middle and the top of the lighthouse as well.

Interpretive Programs include:

“Rip Currents” (7-minute video): videotape presentation offered every day at 9:30 a.m.

“Lighthouse History” (30 minutes): ranger-led program about the construction, purpose, and operations of this lighthouse and others on Cape Hatteras. Program is offered Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.; Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays at 3:00 p.m.

“Outer Banks History” (30 minutes): topics include lighthouse keepers, life saving stations, shipwrecks, and German U-Boats. Program is offered Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 3:00 p.m.; Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 10:00 a.m.

“Move of the Century” (60-minute video): a one-hour video shows how engineers moved the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse in 23 days. Program is offered every day at 12:00 noon.

“Moving of America’s Lighthouse” (60-minute video): this video shows how engineers moved the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse in 23 days. Program is offered every day at 1:00 p.m.

“Just for Kids” (45-60 minutes): program crafted for young visitors. Program is offered every day (except Wednesday) at 11:00 a.m.

“The Natural Side” (30 minutes): topics include sea turtles, seashells, snakes, and sea oats. Program is offered Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 2:00 p.m.

“Piping Plover” (15-minute video): looks at this protected species and what visitors can do to help. Program is offered Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

“Seashore Arts” (60 minutes): visitors can decorate t-shirts, scarves, and pillow cases. Program is offered Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.

“Seashore Stories” (30 minutes): young children learn about the sea while rangers read to them. Program is offered Thursdays at 2:00 p.m.

“Bird Walk” (2 hours): Cape Hatteras Bird Club members help visitors discover bird life. Program is offered Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m.

“Fish with a Ranger” (2 hours): Cape Hatteras Anglers Club members help visitors learn to surf cast and fish. Program is offered Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:00 a.m.

“Evening Campfire” (60 minutes): visitors hear stories of the Outer Banks under the stars. Program is offered Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m.

“Tour of Principle Keepers Quarters” (30-45 minutes): visitors take tours of the PKQ. Program offered daily as staffing is available.

“Seining with a Ranger” (1 hour): rangers and visitors practice seining and learn about the creatures that live in Pamlico Sound. Program is offered Fridays at 9:00 a.m.

“Ranger’s Choice” (30 minutes): rangers chose their favorite topics to share with visitors. Program is on Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.

### **Ocracoke Island**

- Staff the Ocracoke Island Visitor Center (along with EN employees) daily from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Interpretive Programs include:

“Bird Walk” (90 minutes): ranger-led walk helps visitors discover the Seashore’s bird life. Program is offered Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m.

“Explore the Shore” (60 minutes): a walk along the beach with a ranger to explore this ever-changing world. Program is offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.



*The Seashore's interpretive programs are scheduled for a variety of themes, interests, and age levels, including education programs geared for children.*

"Especially for Kids" (45 minutes): hands-on, fun activities for kids while learning about the Seashore. Program is offered Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 3:00 p.m.

"Ocracoke History" (30 minutes): topics include Native Americans, pilots, fishermen, pirates, lifesavers, and soldiers. Program is offered Mondays at 2:00 p.m.; Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m.; Fridays at 2:30 p.m.

"Ocracoke Ponies" (30 minutes): visitors can learn about the origins of the Banker Ponies and how they survived. Program is offered Mondays at 10:00 a.m.; Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.; Fridays at 10:00 p.m.

"Pirate Times" (30 minutes): Blackbeard and other pirates. Program offered Sundays at 10:00 a.m.; Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.; Thursdays at 2:00.

"Turtle Talk" (30 minutes): an in-depth look at efforts to protect the threatened and endangered sea turtles that nest on these beaches. Program is offered Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00 a.m.

"Graveyard of the Atlantic" (30 minutes): visitors learn how storms, shoals, currents, war, and pirates made these waters so dangerous. Program is offered Sundays at 2:00 p.m. and Thursdays at 1:30 p.m.

"Outer Banks Hurricanes" (30 minutes): these violent storms have helped to shape and reshape the land and lives along the Outer Banks. Program is offered Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 11:00 a.m.

"Evening Campfire" (60 minutes): visitors hear stories of the Outer Banks under the stars. Program is offered Thursdays at 8:00 p.m.

## **Interpretive Partners and Tourism Facilities**

### **Eastern National (NPS Cooperating Association)**

Eastern National (EN) is the park's cooperating association, providing quality educational products and services to park visitors. EN operates three bookstores in the Seashore's three interpretive districts and contributes funds to the park for interpretive programs and supplies.

### **Outer Banks History Center**

This regional research facility was established in 1986. This facility is based on this core collection, and contains a wealth of historical information, photographs, and other archives that are available to park staff.

### **Outer Banks Visitors Bureau**

The Outer Banks Visitors Bureau (OBVB) is the lead marketing and promotional agency for the Outer Banks of North Carolina. It is funded by a 1% occupancy tax and 1% of all prepared meal taxes in Dare County. The Outer Banks Visitors Bureau greets about 800,000 people each year at three regional visitor facilities, two of which are outside the boundary of Cape Hatteras NS. One facility is located where U.S. Highway 158 enters Kitty Hawk, a second is along U.S Highway/s 64/264 on Roanoke Island, and the third is the Whalebone Junction facility inside the park's north boundary. All three visitor centers contain rack cards, folders, and brochures that provide information on visitor attractions in the Outer Banks area.



Information desks inside these facilities are staffed by employees of the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; the Kitty Hawk and Roanoke Island visitor centers are open year round, and the Whalebone Junction visitor facility is open March through December. Restrooms are available at all three facilities.

### **Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum**

This new museum, located next to the ferry terminal in Hatteras Village, broke ground in 2002. It is dedicated to the preservation, advancement, and presentation of the maritime history and shipwrecks of the Outer Banks. Until it is completed, a small portion of this museum is open seasonally. Admission is free. This museum is operated by the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum (non-profit) and located on NPS lands under a Memorandum of Understanding.

### **North Carolina Beach Buggy Association**

Established in 1964, this non-profit organization is dedicated to the preservation of park resources and vehicular access to the natural beach resources of the Outer Banks through a code of ethics for beach behavior and by supporting local, state, and federal officials, and other organizations dedicated to these same goals. This organization provides funding for the park's Junior Ranger program.

### **Outer Banks Lighthouse Society**

The Outer Banks Lighthouse Society (OBLH) was organized in 1994. Its goals are to aid in the preservation of lighthouses in the area and work with the NPS and others to achieve the safe-keeping of the buildings, artifacts, and records of the old U.S. Light-House Board. The OBLH provides volunteers, special events, research resources, and raises funds for lighthouse preservation projects.

### **Cape Hatteras Anglers Club**

Established in 1957, the non-profit Cape Hatteras Anglers Club currently supports the Seashore's interpretive operation through the "Take me Fishing" program held in the park's Hatteras District. This program is held twice a week and members of the Angler's Club volunteer to help visitors learn to surf fish. They provide people and knowledge to prepare fishing equipment and help with the hands-on portion of the program.

### **Cape Hatteras Bird Club**

The Cape Hatteras Bird Club currently leads bird walks at the Seashore once a week during the summer and provides knowledge of local birds to visitors who participate in the walks. Also, bird club members support various activities held throughout the park which support birding opportunities including winter bird counts and birding check lists.



### **Chicamacomico Historical Association**

The Chicamacomico Life Saving Station and museum, in Rodanthe, is operated and staffed by the Chicamacomico Historical Association (non-profit). This organization of volunteers is dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the Station. Inside the museum are exhibits, museum cases and a small gift shop. The museum is staffed seasonally by employees and volunteers, generally from May through September. They also offer interpretive and campfire programs during summer months.

### **USFWS, Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge**

Pea Island Wildlife Refuge has been a partner of the Seashore since its establishment in the 1930s. Their interpreters and volunteers provide programs in the summer that focus on birds and natural history. About 15 miles south of Whalebone Junction along NC 12 is the Pea Island Visitor Center, staffed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The visitor center offers exhibits, cases, and mounted bird specimens that cover natural history themes, along with a small gift shop operated by the refuge's non-profit support group. The porch has a few outdoor exhibit panels and two small bulletin cases.

A visitor information desk inside the visitor center is staffed by USFWS employees and volunteers seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from April 1 through November 30, and on Thursdays through Sundays the rest of the year. Programs are provided during summer months.

Outside the visitor center, a path leads to a wildlife observation deck overlooking the New Pond area and a trail continues around the pond.

### **Ocracoke Preservation Museum**

The Ocracoke Preservation Society is a non-profit, community based organization dedicated to the preservation of Ocracoke Island's rich historical, cultural and environmental heritage. The Ocracoke Preservation Museum (David Williams House), located on NPS lands, has been open to the public since 1992. The ground floor rooms of the building serves as exhibit and sales space. The second floor contains a research library and administrative offices. Open seasonally, admission is free. In summer months, museum staff and volunteers host talks about local historic subjects. The house and surrounding Ocracoke Historic District are on the National Register of Historic Places.

### **Frisco Native American Museum**

Located just off NC 12 in the village of Frisco, this privately owned facility houses a large collection of American Indian artifacts and also interprets a maritime forest. The museum is open year-round from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from Tuesdays through Sundays. Admission is by donation.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

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## PERSONAL SERVICES

Personal service programs at the Seashore have been reviewed and refined over many years. This refinement will continue as national special emphasis programs; and Seashore issues, funding, and visitor/community demographics change. Given this, the NPS should work to continually adapt personal services to:

- 1) offer a balanced interpretive program schedule for visitors to North Carolina's Outer Banks.
- 2) coordinate education programs for local schools and visiting schools/other education groups;
- 3) enhance communication with partners;
- 4) provide programming for the local community on park management issues.
- 5) collaborate in recruiting and training seasonal employees and volunteers.

Over time, the park's interpretive program schedule has drifted to an emphasis on cultural history themes. Park programming needs to be brought back to a more balanced offering inclusive of natural history and recreational programs as well. There is also a need to better address park issues through interpretive programs.

Collaboration with area partners in programming can go a long way towards providing this balance and reduce repetition of program offerings for park visitors.

Collaboration with partners will also work towards provision of interpretive services throughout the Outer Banks which compliment and build off of each other.

Below is a listing of potential programs, which can either be presented by the park or area interpretive partners that address the above need. Many of these potential programs were discussed and recommended during the LRIP Workshops in 2005 with the Seashore's interpretive staff and park partners:

- Living with a barrier island
- Wetlands/hydrology
- Protected species management
- Off-road vehicle use
- Beach Geology
- Night beachwalk
- Buxton Woods nature trail program
- Re-establish Cross-Island walks and swimming and snorkeling programs
- Tours of restoration of Little Kinnakeet Life Saving Station
- Commercial fishing/net-tying demonstrations
- Ocean swimming and safety/life-guard demonstrations
- Preservation/stewardship
- Consider a program on the Seashore's diverse architecture
- Boating safety
- Diamond Shoals Lightship
- Navigation programs



*The future interpretive programs offered at the Seashore will emphasize preservation and stewardship, such as programs about sea turtles nesting.*

## Coordinate Education Programs

The Seashore should work to develop more comprehensive education programming for local schools and visiting education groups.

Local education programs such as the Kindergarten Story Hour, the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Lifesaving Service program, and the high school Pharm-a-Sea program developed in the early 1990's should be considered for reestablishment, working within the context of the established agreement with the Dare County schools.

The Dare County Schools Agreement should be utilized to the fullest extent possible, and also serve as a model for additional programming to be developed with the Ocracoke School. The existing Cape Hatteras School student volunteer program should be enhanced and better formalized.

During the LRIP Workshops in 2005, the Seashore's interpretive staff and park partners discussed the potential for coordinating their respective education programs. This coordination could include both local and visiting groups, focusing on curriculum based programming that enhances education visits throughout the Outer Banks.

## Enhance Communication with Partners

During the LRIP Workshops in 2005 with the Seashore's interpretive staff and park partners, it was expressed that area interpretive partner meetings (and other ways to communicate and coordinate interpretive efforts) should happen on a more regular basis.

It is recommended that the Seashore's interpretive staff hold an annual meeting with the park's interpretive partners in February to coordinate interpretive program schedules for the upcoming spring and summer seasons before the Seashore prints its "In the Park" park newspaper.

A second annual meeting to be held in the fall is also recommended to review and evaluate the coordination effort and the effectiveness the past spring and summer's program offering for Outer Banks visitors.

## Provide Programming for the Local Community on Park Management Issues

The seashore should work to provide programming geared specifically for the local communities via speaker series, symposiums, workshops, and other means.

## Collaborate in Recruiting and Training

During the LRIP Workshops in 2005, the Seashore's interpretive staff and partners discussed the potential for collaborating on the following:

- At Buxton, staff two buildings in winter with paid staff or volunteers.
- Recruit more regular and local volunteers, especially in the winter.
- The park has great volunteers who live in their recreational vehicles (RVs). But many RV volunteers leave due to illness, moving, etc.
- There is extremely tight housing all along the Outer Banks, and no RV pads in Ocracoke; housing is a challenge for both the Seashore and its partners in attracting seasonal employees and volunteers.

## NON-PERSONAL SERVICES

### Interpretive Facilities

#### Short-Term Recommendations

It is recommended, that in the short term (1-3 years), the park:

**Continue operations at the park's three existing visitor centers at Bodie Island, Hatteras Island, and Ocracoke Island.**

The exhibits and audiovisual components of each visitor center will be upgraded as recommended on pages 76-80.

#### Open Hatteras U.S. Weather Bureau Station

The park will open the Hatteras U.S. Weather Bureau Station in partnership with the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau to serve as a southern Dare County Welcome Center. The park will provide temporary exhibits until formal exhibits are completed.

#### Mid-Term Recommendations

It is recommended, that in the mid term (3-6 years), the park:

Explore the establishment of a partner-based interpretive/education facility at the Salvo Day Use Area and construct interpretive Pavilions at the Bodie Island and Ocracoke Island Visitor Centers.

Identify an NPS partner or partner facility that can be used for overnight education program experience for local school groups.

#### Long-Term Recommendations

It is recommended, that in the long term (6-10 years), the park:

#### Establish north and south entrance orientation/information facilities (proposed):

Orientation/information facilities at the north and south entrances of the Seashore would provide for adequate orientation and information services and a basic overview of park interpretive themes, park resources, and recreational opportunities. Current visitor centers, in both structure and location, do not adequately serve these purposes for the great number of visitors that come to the park. The lack of adequate orientation/information facilities leads to continued violation of park regulations, diminished appreciativeness of park resources, and unawareness of ocean and beach safety issues and concerns due to the inability of the park to provide this basic information to park visitors. This issue needs to be addressed in upcoming GMP planning.

#### Continue planning for opening of the Little Kinnakeet Lifesaving Station

The goal of the Little Kinnakeet Lifesaving Station restoration project is to return the main station and kitchen/cookhouse to the 1904-1915 periods and the boathouse to 1874 period, and to have the Station open to the public as a historic facility. The Little Kinnakeet Life Saving Station operated for more than eighty years between 1874 and 1954 and is an outstanding architectural example of Life Saving Stations during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This lends this site to be not only an interpretive

center on the U.S. Lifesaving Service, but also provides an opportunity for a strong message in regards to historic preservation. The station consists of three buildings: the main station bungalow style house (1904), the kitchen/mess (1892), and the boathouse (the 1874 original station). Current plans call for the restoration project to be completed by 2012.

## Audiovisual

### Short-Term Recommendations

It is recommended that, in the short term (1-2 years), the park:

#### **Produce edited versions of “Move of the Century”**

This 60-minute film was produced by Video Marketing Group, Inc. in 1999, and is shown in the Presentation Room in the Cape Hatteras Museum of the Sea once each day during the summer season and on request during the winter season. It is recommended that this high-quality production needs to be edited down to two formats: a 15-minute version for the Presentation Room, and a 5-minute version for other potential venues near the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse.

### Long-Term Recommendations

It is recommended, that in the long term (6-10 years), the park:

#### **Develop orientation/informational audiovisual component for the south and north entrance orientation/information facilities (proposed).**

This audiovisual component could provide basic orientation and information and provide an overview of the park’s natural, cultural, and recreational themes. Special topic films on park themes and issues could also be developed.



## Exhibits

Cape Hatteras NS has a variety of interpretive venues along its more than 60 miles of seashore, ranging from lighthouses and keepers quarters to lifesaving stations and visitor centers.

The extreme linear nature of the park leads most visitors to experience it in a set order. Being distanced from the main highway, most visitors will not stop at every interpretive site or facility, complicating the park's ability to provide a comprehensive experience via linking stories between sites and facilities. Most visitors are "destination specific" when coming to the Seashore making them less likely to stop at facilities off the main highway route to get information. Completion of north and south entrance orientation/information facilities will greatly facilitate a more all-inclusive capacity for thematic exhibit presentation, and enhance NPS identity for the park.

## Short-Term Recommendations

It is recommended that, in the short term (1-3 years), the park:

### Develop a master plan for all indoor exhibits at the Seashore.

The plan should include an overall approach to developing the park's interpretive themes within its interior exhibits.

Such a plan should include:

- Provision for better balance in overall thematic content of park exhibits to best maximize the visitor experience and address the park's natural, cultural and recreational themes. Given that most park visitors do not stop at each exhibit facility site, it will be neces-

sary to provide for these three main theme topic areas at multiple sites.

- An analysis of themes covered by exhibits at adjacent partner facilities – stories that may not need to be duplicated at NPS facilities.
- Phasing of exhibitry components. If north and south entrance orientation/information facilities (proposed) are completed – exhibits at other locations (i.e. Bodie and Hatteras Island Light Stations) can be adapted to be more site specific.
- An integrated approach to the lighthouse exhibits that provides for interpretation of common lighthouses themes as well as unique stories of each lighthouse. Some economy may be realized in the planning and design of the lighthouse exhibits if some content and design features are consistent between lighthouse sites.
- A consistent design motif that reinforces the relationship of Cape Hatteras NS as a unit of the National Park System.

### Review and analyze the exhibits at Cape Hatteras Light Station.

- Contact Station and Double Keepers Quarters: Concepts discussed in the comprehensive plan mentioned above should provide a base for the planning of new exhibits.
- Visitor Center deck: This is a possible site for an outdoor exhibit on natural history themes.

### Rearrange exhibit space at the Ocracoke Island Visitor Center.

A plan to rearrange the exhibits, desk, and sales area of the visitor center will improve the exhibit presentation and flow. The current placement of the desk and sales area dominates the space.

Moving the sales area to the rear wall and rearranging the exhibits that currently occupy that space in a more logical, approachable, and pleasing layout will improve the visitor experience.

### **Mid-Term Recommendations**

It is recommended that, in the mid-term (3-6 years), the park:

**Develop exhibits for the Bodie Island Visitor Center & Lighthouse.** The existing exhibits in the Bodie Island Visitor Center are old and lack a cohesive message. New exhibits for the visitor center are recommended. The comprehensive plan for interpretive exhibits mentioned above should provide a base for planning new exhibits at this site.

**Develop exhibits for the Ocracoke Visitor Center & Lighthouse.** The existing exhibits in the Ocracoke Visitor Center are old and lack a cohesive message. New exhibits for the visitor center are recommended. The comprehensive plan for interpretive exhibits mentioned above should provide a base for planning new exhibits at this site.

**Develop Exhibits for the Hatteras U.S. Weather Bureau Station.** Replace temporary posters with formal interactive, science-based exhibits.

### **Long-Term Recommendations**

It is recommended that, in the long-term (6-10 years), the park:

**Develop exhibits at Little Kinnakeet Life Saving Station.**

Restoration of the Little Kinnakeet Life Saving Station will offer opportunities for interpreting the site through interior exhibits. A historically furnished boathouse and living quarters might contain strategically placed interpretive exhibit panels. The park should work with other Life Saving Station sites on the Seashore to develop the theme of history and heritage at this site.

**Develop exhibits for north and south entrance orientation/information facilities** Exhibits at these facilities would provide basic orientation and information for park visitors and an overview of the park's natural, cultural, and recreational themes.

## **Historic Furnishings**

### **Mid-Term to Long-Term Recommendations**

It is recommended that, in the next 2-10 years, the park:

#### **Develop Historic Furnishing Reports as needed**

The development of these reports will be based on adaptive use decisions regarding restored historic structures as restoration planning indicates or adaptive use changes, i.e. reevaluate historic furnishings potential of the Bodie Island Keepers' Quarters and Cape Hatteras Double Keepers' Quarters if north and south entrance orientation/information facilities are constructed.

**Furnish the Little Kinnakeet Life Saving Station upon completion of restoration.** The water rescue part of the life saving story seems to be told well at

Chicamacomico Life Saving Station. Their boat house is fully furnished and within sight of the beach which makes explaining the process of water rescue straightforward to most visitors. Since Little Kinnakeet's life saving buildings are farther from the ocean, that connection is more difficult to convey. There is an existing furnishings plan for Little Kinnakeet's station building/Main House. Although Chicamacomico also plans to historically furnish their keepers quarters, the NPS has greater resources and an existing furnishings plan. Therefore, it is recommended that Little Kinnakeet's Main House be historically furnished after those building renovations are complete. The Historic Furnishings Report states that the entire complex was to be restored to the 1910-1915 time-frame and the Report's recommendations are based on that time-frame. That has not occurred. The 1874 Lifesaving Station will be restored to the 1885 period. The main house and the 1892 Kitchen/Cookhouse will be restored to the 1904-1915 period. This discontinuity of restoration of the various structures will complicate interpreting the site as a working lifesaving station. It is recommended that a review of the Historic Furnishing Report be completed in light of the restoration efforts now taking place to determine, in actuality, what should be furnished.

## Publications

### Unigrid Brochure

The existing A6 format Unigrid brochure is up-to-date and 50,000 copies are reprinted every other year by HFC. The park purchases 150,000 additional copies annually to supply the OBVC information stations. It is recommended that the park staff update the park map on this unigrid brochure as new visitor facilities are opened.

### Park Newspaper

A 16-page, 4-color park newspaper, *In The Park*, is printed by the park twice a year. The park newspaper has sections on the three park units of the Outer Banks Group, articles on interpretive themes, safety, and stewardship, as well as an EN sales list and order form.

This publication contains important orientation maps and information that is well written, but needs more articles and improved organization.

### Proposed Park Handbook

It is recommended that the Seashore look into using its EN funds earmarked for a park handbook to write, design, and produce a handbook that is smaller (approximately 40 pages) than a traditional NPS handbook. To keep costs down and do the project with a limited staff, the park should hire a contractor (that can be recommended by HFC).

### Park Site Bulletins

Of the park's 18 existing site bulletins, the newer ones are well designed and easily identified as NPS publications because they follow the new NPS Graphic Identity standards. It is recommended that the park review their site bulletin

program. Careful thought needs to be given as to the subject matter of site bulletin produced. Printing of site bulletins is expensive. Site bulletin topic items should be closely related to issue-based interpretation areas of which it would be difficult for the visitor to receive similar information elsewhere. The park staff should also consider a more consistent distribution method for site bulletins.

## Wayside Exhibits

Wayside exhibits have great potential at the Seashore to convey safety and resource management messages on site, and to enhance the experience for park visitors by interpreting site-specific park stories.

Wayside exhibits are an effective way to emotionally and intellectually connect visitors to the park's resources, are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and create an NPS presence throughout the park.

The park has made recent attempts at offering park information and visitor safety through an extensive bulletin board system. However, the time has come for the park to take a comprehensive look at park-wide wayside exhibit development to present a unified NPS system look.

## Short-Term Recommendations

It is recommended that in 1 to 3 years, the park:

**Prepare a park-wide Wayside Exhibit Proposal.** A park-wide Wayside Exhibit Proposal should be prepared to guide the development of wayside exhibits at the Seashore toward a complete, high-quality, unified system of wayside exhibits. This Wayside Exhibit Proposal will identify desired wayside exhibit subjects and locations throughout the park and will also serve as a tool for the Seashore to estimate funding needs for future wayside exhibits. The approved Wayside Exhibit Proposal will be a management tool to guide wayside development in phases as funding becomes available, beginning with park orientation and safety waysides at various beach accesses, then with interpre-

tive waysides along trails and at appropriate landscape features in the park.

The Wayside Exhibit Proposal should be developed by HFC and park staff to identify all the wayside exhibit needs within the park, and potential waysides at neighbor and partner sites. The proposal will be used to bring a unified approach to wayside exhibit development, thereby avoiding a haphazard approach that results in multi-generational waysides that have no common look or quality. The proposal can identify panel fabrication materials (screenprint, digital inkjet, or porcelain), base designs, and site preparation needs. The proposal can also develop a priority list for wayside development if funds are limited or need to be secured over many years. A strategy for implementation of the park-wide Wayside Exhibit Proposal can be developed and used as a tool for the park as they seek future-year funds through PMIS statements. The proposal can also address the need for decisions on the treatment and role of waysides within the park's historic landscapes. The topics below were discussed during the LRIP Workshops in 2005 as potential categories for wayside exhibit consideration.

1. Kiosk Units (similar to those designed for Lake Mead NRA in 2004) are recommended at most park entrances and beach access points throughout the park. These 3-sided, roofed kiosks would serve as an unstaffed park contact station. These wayside kiosks could include a panel with a park orientation map and information on the park's resources, a safety or resource protection panel (e.g., beach closing for nesting turtles), and a bulletin case for

seasonal information.

2. Interpretive Waysides Exhibits (with 36" x 24" low profile panels) are recommended to interpret the park's site-specific stories. For example, these low profile wayside exhibits could help interpret the coastal life saving station story at the three historic lighthouse districts. (However, park management would need to decide on the appropriate use of wayside exhibits in historic areas before waysides are introduced there.) Interpreting the dune/beach migration (geology) story is appropriate at many locations in the park that dramatically show these processes. Wayside exhibits work best when they "caption the landscape" and there are many locations at the Seashore that illustrate the dramatic landscape changes caused by weather. However, careful consideration needs to be given to the life expectancy of wayside exhibits in the park's harsh, salty, windy environment; generally, wayside exhibits should be used sparingly in the Seashore environment.
3. Trailhead wayside exhibits (with 36" x 48" upright panels), trailside wayside exhibits (with 24" x 24" low profile panels) and identification panels (6" x 11" angled panels) could serve as valuable interpretive tools along the park's trails. Trailhead panels could include a map of the trail, visitor awareness and safety information, and features to look for along the trail. Trailside waysides and plant identification panels could complement the trailhead panels by calling out specific features.





*Future curriculum-based education programs may be coordinated with the Seashore's many partners.*

## Partnerships

### **N. C. Center for the Advancement of Teaching**

The North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT) provides an environment where North Carolina teachers:

- Engage in scholarly activities structured to stimulate intellectual curiosity, creative thinking, inquiry, and discussion.
- Find time for reflection, inspiration, and professional networking.
- Examine and challenge ideas.
- Develop renewed enthusiasm for teaching.

NCCAT seminars are interdisciplinary and emphasize creativity and intellectual stimulation. Most seminars last five days and are relevant to many subject areas, including arts and humanities, physical sciences, social sciences, technology, health, and fitness. Currently, there is little collaboration between NCCAT and the Seashore's interpretive staff. As the NCCAT's new Ocracoke campus develops, there will be more opportunities to collaborate on these education programs.

### **Concessionaires/Incidental Business Permits**

It is recommended that the Interpretive Division work with park concessionaires and Incidental Business Permit holders in the provision of interpretive/educational services. Services provided by these business can and do compliment park and partner interpretive offering and need to be included as part of the total visitor interpretive experience, particularly with recreational fishing. Cross training between the park and these businesses would likely be very useful.

## Internships

It is recommended that the Interpretive Division work to establish partnerships with area educational institutions such as Eastern Carolina University, Elizabeth City State, NC State, UNC (including the Coastal Studies Institute), and the College of the Albemarle in providing research or internships.

### **Natural History Partners**

It is recommended that the park continue to work with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, USFWS Ecological Service, and NC Audubon to provide interpretive media and programming regarding protected species in the park.

### **North Carolina Ferry Division**

It is recommended that the park work with the NC Ferry Division to provide orientation information to visitors arriving at the park from via the southern mainland.

### **Cape Hatteras Secondary School Costal Studies Program and the UNC Costal Studies Institute/Sea Grant**

It is recommended that the park work with the Cape Hatteras Secondary School Costal Studies Program and the UNC Costal Studies Institute/Sea Grant in the development of local educational programming.

### **Off Road Vehicle Partners**

It is recommended that the park work with the ORV groups in development of off-road vehicle information for recreational visitors.

## Collection and Archive Needs

The natural history collection at Cape Hatteras NS is an important part of the management of the park's resources. The natural history collection exists to provide baseline data of the Seashore's natural resources and to document the natural succession processes. The means by which the natural resource museum collection should grow is through authorized scholarly research.

With the Seashore's cultural history collection, the general framework of the collection's purposes and objectives is somewhat open-ended with respect to chronological constraints. However, the four "focal periods" listed below should be emphasized in the park's collection as particularly typifying or exemplifying key aspects of the historical interplay of natural and human activity in this area.

- The period (1861-1865) of most intensive activity related to the Civil War on the Outer Banks.
- The period (1850-1950) of most intensive U.S. Life Saving Service, U.S. Lighthouse Service, and U.S. Coast Guard activity and operation of manned light and life saving stations of the Outer Banks.
- The periods (circa 1914-1918 and 1939-1945) of most intensive activity related to World Wars I and II on the Outer Banks.
- The period (1930s to the present) reflecting federal land protection by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service.

Historic contexts for the Seashore's cultural resources also include a variety of other historic themes.

The following have been identified in the park's Resource Management Plan as significant to the park:

- Post-Archaic Adaptations of Eastern Coastal Regions
- English Exploration and Settlement of the Carolinas
- The Civil War in the East and Naval Action
- Shipping and Transportation
- Ships, Boats, Lighthouses, and Other Structures
- Communications, Radio, and Telegraph
- Architecture, Maritime: U.S. Lighthouses, U.S. Life Saving Stations
- American Ways of Life
- Conservation of Natural Resources
- Historic Preservation
- Recreation

The park currently has Procite license/sites (the official Library database for the NPS) for the archival library at the Outer Banks Group Headquarters and the small interpretive library in Buxton. The park plans to purchase additional Procite licenses so that interpreters and other NPS employees throughout the Seashore will have computer access to the park's libraries.

In the future, the park needs to put the archival inventories on the websites for Cape Hatteras NS (and Fort Raleigh National Historic Site and Wright Brothers National Memorial) so that outside researchers can access the park archives from remote locations.

## Research Needs

### Natural History

#### Inventory and Monitoring

To fulfill the NPS mission, Park Interpreters must be knowledgeable about the area flora and fauna. The need for various Inventory and Monitoring studies has been identified by the Seashore. Some of these projects have been completed. As reports become available they will be made available to each of the Visitor Center libraries through the Resource Management Division.

#### Predator Control

Park Interpreters must be able to address issues such as predator control. A PMIS statement has identified the need for a park wide Predator Management Plan. The Seashore has received FY 06 funds to complete an Environmental Assessment for such a plan. Each Visitor Center will receive a copy of this document when finalized.

#### Cooperative Geologic Study

Park Interpreters must keep abreast of current coastal studies relating to barrier island formation and coastal processes creating change such as sea level rise and human intervention. Cape Hatteras NS is supporting an ongoing coastal geology study conducted by East Carolina University, U.S Geological Service and North Carolina Geological Survey. The park has received several progress reports. These reports, as well as future reports, will be made available to each Visitor Center.

#### Endangered Species

To fulfill the NPS mission, Park Interpreters must be knowledgeable about threatened/endangered or

otherwise protected species in the Seashore. FWS Recovery Plans, park specific annual reports, related research reports and life history information will be made available to each Visitor Center Staff will keep current via communication with Park Resource Management Division and by attending professional conferences/workshops.

#### Migratory Birds

The Seashore is an important feeding and resting ground for tens of thousands of shorebirds during the non-breeding season. In order to educate the public, Interpretive Staff needs to be knowledgeable of this use. Results of seasonal shorebird surveys conducted by Resource Management staff will be given to Visitor Centers.

### Cultural History

#### Prepare Historic Structure Reports (HSR)

Hatteras Weather Bureau Station, CCC Cabins, Hatteras Coast Guard Station, Cape Hatters Light Station, Bodie Island Light Station Double Keepers Quarters

HSR will include a management summary, developmental history, treatment and use, record of treatment, and an appendix. The completion of these studies will enable park management to fully assess the current interpretation, protection, and preservation practices related to these structures. This critical baseline information will aid the park by providing factual information to the park's interpretive, resource management, and maintenance personnel.

### **Prepare Historic Resource Study(HSR)**

Cape Hatteras NS, Civil War on the Outer Banks, CCC/WPA Camps, Shipwrecks on the Outer Banks.

HRS will provide a basic historical overview. Structures will be identified, described, and evaluated using historic contexts developed for the HRS. The recommendation and baseline data of the HRS will be used in managing the historic resources.

### **Prepare Cultural Landscape Plan (CLR)**

Cape Hatteras Light Station, Hatteras Weather Bureau Station, CCC Cabins, Bodie Island Light Station, Ocracoke Light Station.

CLR Part 1 - Site History, Existing Conditions, and Analysis and Evaluation, and Part 2 - treatment recommendations is required to address current management concerns. These reports will provide park management with a detailed site history, as well as evaluation and analysis (text and graphics) of the landscape, and its associated features, to National Register standards. This analysis will be used to determine a period of significance for the landscape. The historical analysis, along with a discussion of current park management needs, will become the basis of treatment recommendations that preserve and interpret the significant landscape resources. A cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) will be completed as Part Three.

### **Prepare National Register Nominations**

Little Kinnakeet Life Saving Station, Ocracoke Loop Shack Hill, Bodie Island Coastal Survey Monuments.

## STAFFING NEEDS

### Past Staffing

Interpretive staffing at Cape Hatteras NS hit its peak in the 1970s when the Seashore had 1 full-time permanent Chief of Interpretation (shared with FORA/WRBR), 1 full-time permanent administrative assistant (shared with FORA/WRBR), 4 full-time permanent Seashore interpretive staff, and 18 seasonal positions. By 2005, these numbers have slipped to 1 full-time permanent Chief of Interpretation (shared with FORA/WRBR), 1 full-time permanent administrative assistant (shared with FORA/WRBR), 1 permanent Seashore interpretive staff, and 18 seasonal positions. Although the seasonal positions remains the same, 12 of the 2005 positions are project-funded and dedicated to the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse operations-only 6 seasonal staff had broader interpretive programming duties in all thematic areas. In the late 1970s, Seashore visitation averaged 1.6 million per year. In 2005, visitation was 2.3 million.

According to the Outer Banks Group Business Plan of 2001, the function areas of Interpretation and Visitor Center Operations had a deficit of more than 25 FTEs for the three NPS areas under the Outer Banks Group's administration. Cape Hatteras NS's portion of that deficit is approximately 15 FTEs.

### Current Staffing (2006)

In FY 2006 the park interpretive staff at the Seashore was:  
(Funding sources: Base park funded (ONPS); EN Interpretive Donations Account funded (ENIDA); Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Tours Fee Project funded (LH Fee); Interim Protected Species Management Strategy Implementation Fee Project funded (IPSMS Fee)

#### Management and Administration

Position	Status	Funding	Grade	FTE	Incumbent
Outer Banks Group Chief of Interpretation; Supervisory Park Ranger	Permanent	ONPS (Feb- Sept)	GS-12	1.0	Mary Doll (as of 01/06)
CAHA Interpretive Resource Specialist; Park Ranger (Interp)	Permanent	ONPS (Feb- Sept)	GS-11	1.0	Marcia Lyons (as of 01/06)
Interpretive Activities Assistant; Administrative Assistant	Permanent	ONPS	GS-05	1.0	Vacant (to be filled 07)
Volunteer Coordinator; Administrative Assistant	Permanent STF	ONPS	GS-06	0.8	Maggie Tyler (vacant as of 06/06 -will be lapsed)



**Bodie Island District**

Position	Status	Funding	Grade	FTE	Incumbent
Park Ranger(Interp)	Seasonal	ONPS	GS-07	0.5	Mid-April- Columbus Day
Park Ranger (Interp)	Seasonal	ONPS	GS-05	0.3	Memorial Day- Labor Day
Park Ranger (Interp)	Seasonal	ENIDA	GS-05	0.3	Memorial Day- Labor Day

**Hatteras Island District**

Position	Status	Funding	Grade	FTE	Incumbent
Park Ranger(Interp)	Seasonal	ONPS	GS-05	0.5	Columbus Day- Mid-April
Park Ranger (Interp)	Seasonal	ONPS	GS-05	0.5	Columbus Day- Mid-April
Park Ranger (Interp)	Seasonal	LH Fee	GS-07	0.5	Mid-April- Columbus Day
Park Ranger (Interp)	Seasonal	LH Fee	GS-05	0.5	Mid-April- Columbus Day
Park Ranger (Interp)	Seasonal	LH Fee	GS-05	0.5	Mid-April- Columbus Day
Park Ranger (Interp)	Seasonal	LH Fee	GS-05	0.5	Mid-April- Columbus Day
Park Ranger (Interp)	Seasonal	LH Fee	GS-05	0.5	Mid-April- Columbus Day
Park Ranger (Interp)	Seasonal	LH Fee	GS-05	0.5	Mid-April- Columbus Day
Park Ranger (Interp)	Seasonal	LH Fee	GS-05	0.5	Mid-April- Columbus Day
Park Ranger (Interp)	Seasonal	LH Fee	GS-05	0.5	Mid-April- Columbus Day
Park Ranger (Interp)	Seasonal	LH Fee	GS-05	0.5	Mid-April- Columbus Day
Park Ranger (Interp)	Seasonal	LH Fee	GS-05	0.5	Mid-April- Columbus Day
Park Ranger (Interp)	Seasonal	LH Fee	GS-05	0.5	Mid-April- Columbus Day
Park Ranger (Interp)	Seasonal	LH Fee	GS-05	0.5	Mid-April- Columbus Day
Park Ranger (Interp)	Seasonal	IPSMS	GS-05	0.3	Memorial Day- Labor Day

**Ocracoke Island District**

Position	Status	Funding	Grade	FTE	Incumbent
District Interpreter Park Ranger (Interp)	Permanent	ONPS	GS-09	1.0	Gail Fox- (vacant as of 05/06- will be lapsed)
Park Ranger (Interp)	Seasonal	ONPS	GS-05	0.5	Mid-April- Columbus Day
Park Ranger (Interp)	Seasonal	ONPS	GS-05	0.3	Memorial Day- Labor Day
Park Ranger (Interp)	Seasonal	ENIDA	GS-05	0.3	Memorial Day- Labor Day

Total FTEs: 14.3

**Additional Positions Recommended (2007-2012)**

To bring the Seashore's interpretive and visitor center operations up to a minimum level, the following additional positions are recommended: (those marked with a "\*" are positions noted in the Group's Core Operations Plan.)

**Headquarters**

Position	Status	Funding	Grade	FTE	Incumbent
VIP Coordinator	Permanent	ONPS	GS-06	1.0	Permanent Full- Time

**Bodie Island District**

Position	Status	Funding	Grade	FTE	Incumbent
*Education Specialist (District Interpreter)	Permanent	ONPS	GS-09	1.0	Permanent Full- Time
Park Guide	Permanent	ONPS	GS-04	1.0	Permanent Full- Time

**Hatteras Island District**

Position	Status	Funding	Grade	FTE	Incumbent
District Interpreter Park Ranger (Interp)	Permanent	ONPS	GS-09	1.0	Permanent Full Time
*Park Ranger	Permanent	ONPS	GS-07	1.0	Subject to Furlough
Park Guide	Permanent	ONPS	GS-04	1.0	Permanent Full- Time

**Ocracoke Island District**

Position	Status	Funding	Grade	FTE	Incumbent
District Interpreter Park Ranger (Interp)	Permanent	ONPS	GS-09	1.0	Permanent Full Time

Total "New" Positions: 7

Total new FTEs with new positions: 7

# IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

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The measure of success of any plan is the extent to which it is implemented. Initial implementation strategies need to be both realistic and flexible. The implementation plan for the Long-Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP) outlined on the following pages is an initial blueprint for change. Because staffing, funding opportunities and priorities often change, park managers need to adjust the implementation strategies to adapt to changing conditions. Therefore, this LRIP should be updated annually as Part 6 (Status of Implementation Plan) within the park's Annual Implementation Plan (AIP).

Over the next 5-7 years, employees in the positions listed below should form an Implementation Team to guide the accomplishment of this LRIP's Implementation tasks as outlined on the following pages:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Location</b>
Supt., Outer Banks Group	Headquarters: Manteo, North Carolina
Deputy Supt, Outer Banks Group	Headquarters: Manteo, North Carolina
Chief of Interpretation, Outer Banks Group	Headquarters: Manteo, North Carolina
Interpretive Resource Specialist, Cape Hatteras NS	Headquarters: Manteo, North Carolina
Education Specialist, Cape Hatteras NS (vacant)	Bodie Island Visitor Center
Park Ranger (Interp), Cape Hatteras NS	Hatteras Island Visitor Center
Park Ranger (Interp), Cape Hatteras NS (vacant)	Ocracoke Island Visitor Center
Volunteer Coordinator, Outer Banks Group (vacant)	Headquarters: Manteo, North Carolina
Chief of Interpretation, Southeast Regional Office,	Atlanta, GA

The NPS employees filling the above-listed positions should confer annually to adjust the funding strategies and task assignments to ensure the implementation of this LRIP.

## **PERSONAL SERVICES**

Task/Step

*Responsible Position/s:*

### **Balance the Interpretive Program Schedule**

Continue successful programs, try new programs

*Interpretive Resource Specialist*

### **Coordinate Education Programs**

Continue work with Dare County Public Schools

*Chief of Interpretation, Education Specialist*

Establish a Curriculum-based Education Program

*Education Specialist*

### **Enhance Communication with Partners**

Hold a meeting with park partners each winter

*Chief of Interpretation, Interpretive Resource Specialist*

Hold a second meeting with partners each fall

*Chief of Interpretation, Interpretive Resource Specialist*

### **Community Outreach**

Provide programs for local communities on park management issues

*Chief of Interpretation, Interpretive Resource Specialist*

Develop programs such as speaker series, workshops, etc.

*Interpretive Resource Specialist.*

### **Collaborate in Recruiting and Training**

Recruit more local volunteers, especially for winter

*Volunteer Coordinator*

Collaborate in volunteer recruiting with partners

*Volunteer Coordinator*

Estimated costs of Interpretive "Personal Services" must be calculated and updated annually.

*Fund Source	Short-term/Mid-term tasks / Long-term tasks/ "Out years"...									
	2007-08	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
ONPS and EN	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
ONPS and EN	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
ONPS	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
ONPS	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
ONPS	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
ONPS	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
ONPS	XX	XX								
ONPS	XX									
ONPS	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX



## NON-PERSONAL SERVICES

Task/Step

*Responsible Position/s*

### Facilities

Complete the Little Kinnakeet LSS Restoration, *Superintendent., Preservation Team*

Open Hatteras U.S. Weather Bureau Station, *Chief of Interpretation*

Explore the establishment of a partner-based interpretive/education facility at the Salvo Day Use Area Construct interpretive Pavilions at the Bodie Island and Ocracoke Island Visitor Centers *Superintendent, Chief of Interpretation*

Include North and South Entrance Orientation Facilities in GMP revision  
*Superintendent, Chief of Interpretation*

Identify a NPS or partner overnight education facility, *Education Specialist*

### Audiovisual

Edit shorter versions of "Move of the Century"  
*Interpretive Resource Specialist, contractors*

Develop orientation/information audiovisual component for South and North Entrance Facilities  
*Interpretive Resource Specialist, contractors*

### Exhibits

Develop a Master Plan for all of Cape Hatteras NS Exhibits:  
*Interpretive Resource Specialist,, HFC*

Review and analyze exhibits at Cape Hatteras Light Station  
*Interpretive Resource Specialist, Park Ranger Hatteras Island Visitor Center, HFC*

Replace exhibits at Cape Hatteras Light Station  
*Interpretive Resource Specialist, Park Ranger Hatteras Island Visitor Center, HFC*

Rearrange exhibit space at Ocracoke Island Visitor Center  
*Interpretive Resource Specialist, Park Ranger Ocracoke Island Visitor Center, HFC*

Develop exhibits for Bodie Island Visitor Center & Light  
*Interpretive Resource Specialist, Education Specialist, HFC*

Develop exhibits for Ocracoke Island Visitor Center  
*Interpretive Resource Specialist, Park Ranger Ocracoke Island Visitor Center, HFC*

Develop exhibits for Little Kinnakeet Life Saving Station  
*Interpretive Resource Specialist, Park Ranger Ocracoke Island Visitor Center, HFC*

Develop exhibits for Hatteras U.S. Weather Bureau Station, *Chief of Interpretation*

### Historic Furnishings

Continue Planning for Furnishing the Little Kinnakeet Life Saving Station  
*Chief of Interpretation, Interpretive Resource Specialist, HFC*

Furnish the Little Kinnakeet Life Saving Station  
*Chief of Interpretation, Interpretive Resource Specialist, HFC*

Cost estimates for the media listed on these pages can be requested through HFC's Cost Estimator in a separate document by calling HFC at (304) 535-5050

*Fund Source	Short-term/ Mid-term tasks / Long-term tasks/ "out years"...									
	2007-08	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Project		XX	XX	XX						
ONPS	XX									
Project		XX	XX							
Project		XX	XX							
ONPS	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX				
ONPS/EN		XX	XX							
Project							XX	XX	XX	
Project/EN	XX	XX	XX							
ONPS	XX									
Project/EN		XX	XX	XX						
ONPS/EN	XX									
Project/EN				XX	XX	XX				
Project/EN					XX	XX	XX			
Project		XX	XX	XX						
Project/EN		XX	XX	XX						
Project			XX	XX	XX					
Project					XX	XX	XX			

## **NON-PERSONAL SERVICES**

Task/Step

*Responsible Position/s*

### **Publications**

Review and update the park's unigrid brochure

*Chief of Interpretation, Interpretive Resource Specialist, HFC*

Produce a handbook for Cape Hatteras NS

*Chief of Interpretation, Interpretive Resource Specialist, EN*

Review the park's Site Bulletins. Design and produce as needed

*Interpretive Resource Specialist, Education Specialist, Park Ranger Hatteras Island Visitor Center & Ocracoke Island Visitor Center*

### **Wayside Exhibits**

Prepare a park-wide Wayside Exhibit Proposal

*Chief of Interpretation, Interpretive Resource Specialist, HFC*

Plan and design 3-sided, roofed Information Kiosks

*Chief of Interpretation, Interpretive Resource Specialist, HFC*

Plan and design interpretive wayside exhibits

*Chief of Interpretation, Interpretive Resource Specialist, HFC*

(Plan, design, & produce 5 to 7 each year for 5 years; perhaps via HFC)

Plan & design Trailhead Waysides & trailsides

*Chief of Interpretation, Interpretive Resource Specialist, HFC*

### **Partnerships**

Work to establish partnership to improve park interpretive services

*Chief of Interpretation, Interpretive Resource Specialist, Education Specialist*

Cost estimates for the media listed on these pages can be requested through HFC's Cost Estimator in a separate document by calling HFC at (304) 535-5050

Short-term/ Mid-term tasks / Long-term tasks/ "out years" ...

\*Fund Source 2007-08 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017

Project XX

EN XX XX XX

ONPS/EN XX XX XX XX XX XX XX XX XX

Project/EN XX

Project XX XX XX

Project/EN XX XX XX XX XX XX XX XX

Project XX XX XX

ONPS XX XX XX XX XX XX XX XX XX





## APPENDIX A: PLANNING TEAM

### National Park Service

#### Cape Hatteras NS

Toni Dufficy	Chief of Interpretation, Outer Banks Group (2005)
Gail Fox	Park Ranger (Interpretation), Cape Hatteras NS
Celeste Stroh	Park Ranger (Interpretation), Cape Hatteras NS
Maggie Tyler	Volunteer Coordinator, Cape Hatteras NS
Geneva James	Administrative Assistant, Outer Banks Group (2005)
Fent Davis	Park Ranger (Interpretation), Wright Brothers NMem
Darrell Collins	Park Ranger (Interpretation), Wright Brothers NMem
Rob Bolling	Park Ranger (Interpretation), Fort Raleigh NHS
Doug Stover	Cultural Resource Manager, Outer Banks Group
Mary Doll	Management Assistant, Outer Banks Group (2005); Chief of Interpretation, Outer Banks Group (2006)
Marcia Lyons	Cape Hatteras Interpretive Resource Specialist, Outer Banks Group (2006)

### Harpers Ferry Interpretive Design Center

Jack Spinnler	Interpretive Planner (Team Captain)
Winnie Frost	Wayside Exhibit Planner
Susan Barkus	Publications Designer
Carol Petravage	Historic Furnishings Staff Curator
Michael Lacome	Exhibit Designer
Amy Maslak	Administrative Assistant

### Southeast Region

Karen Duggan Park	Ranger, Interpretation, Cape Lookout NS
Don Wollenhaupt	Chief, Interpretation & Education, Southeast Region

### Park Partners and Consultants

Rulaine Kegerris	Eastern National (NPS Cooperating Association)
Kaeli Spears	Outer Banks History Center
Carolyn McCormick	Outer Banks Visitors Bureau
Joe Schwarzer	Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum
Tom Burke	North Carolina Beach Buggy Association
Charles Votaw	Outer Banks Lighthouse Society
Shirley Votaw	Outer Banks Lighthouse Society
Larry Hardham	Cape Hatteras Anglers Club
Pat Moore	Cape Hatteras Bird Club
Bob Huggett	Chicamacomico Life Saving Station
Alton Ballance	N.C. Center for the Advancement for Teaching
Linda Molloy	Chicamacomico Historical Association
Linda Scarborough	Ocracoke Preservation Society Museum
Susan Alhfeldt	USFWS, Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge

## APPENDIX B: ENABLING LEGISLATION

# 70

### Calendar No. 1247

75TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

### H. R. 7022

[Report No. 1196]

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 22 (calendar day, AUGUST 3), 1937

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Public Lands and Surveys

AUGUST 9 (calendar day, AUGUST 13), 1937

Reported by Mr. ADAMS, without amendment

### AN ACT

To provide for the establishment of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore in the State of North Carolina, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That when title to all the lands, except those within the limits of established villages, within boundaries to be designated by the Secretary of the Interior within the area of approximately one hundred square miles on the islands of Chicamacomico, Ocracoke, Bodie, Roanoke, and Collington, and the waters and the lands beneath the waters adjacent thereto shall have been vested in the United States, said area shall be, and is hereby, established, dedicated, and set apart as a national seashore for the benefit and enjoyment of the people and shall be known as the Cape Hatteras National Seashore: *Provided*, That the United States shall not purchase by appropriation of public moneys any lands within the aforesaid area, but such lands shall be secured by the United States only by public or private donations

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to accept donations of land, interests in land, buildings, structures, and other property, within the boundaries of said national seashore as determined and fixed hereunder and donations of funds for the purchase and maintenance thereof, the title and evidence of title to lands acquired to be satisfactory to the Secretary of the Interior: *Provided*, That he may acquire on behalf of the United States under any donated funds by purchase, when purchasable at prices deemed by him reasonable, otherwise by condemnation under the provisions of the Act of August 1, 1888, such tracts of land within the said national seashore as may be necessary for the completion thereof.

SEC. 3. The administration, protection, and development of the aforesaid national seashore shall be exercised under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior by the National Park Service, subject to the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), entitled "An Act to establish a, National Park Service, and for other Purposes", as amended: *Provided* That except as hereinafter provided nothing herein shall be construed to divest the jurisdiction of other agencies of the Government now exercised over Federal owned lands within the area of the said